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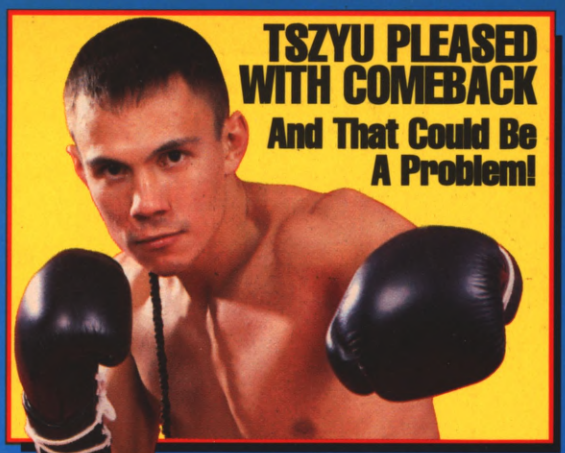

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CRUISERWEIGHT Ch: Robert Daniels Intercont Champ: Darren Corbett 1-Nate Miller 2-Montell Griffin 3-Marcelo Dominguez 4-Terry Dunstan 5-Arthur Williams 6-Saul Montana 7-Alexander Gourov 8-Johnny Nelson 9-Kenny Keene 10-Stefan Angherm

LT. HEAVYWEIGHT Ch: Drake Thadzi 1-Louis Del Valle 2-Virgil Hill 3-Henry Wharton 4-Jorge Castro 5-Ole Klemetsen 6-Mohamed Siluvangi 7-Crawford Ashley 8-Michael Nunn 9-Quincy Taylor 10-Derrick Harmon

SP. MIDDLEWEIGHT Ch: Mads Larsen 1-Thulane Malinga 2-Robin Reid 3-Vincenzo Nardiello 4-Roberto Duran 5-Dean Francis 6- Herol Graham 7-Robert Allen 8-Vinny Pazienza 9-Thomas Tate 10-Reginaldo Andrade

MIDDLEWEIGHT Ch: Vacant 1-Silvio Branco 2-Julio Cesar Green 3-Julio Cesar Vasquez 4-Keith Holmes 5-Paul Vaden 6-Dana Rosenblatt 7-Andrew Council 8-Antoine Echols 9-Robert McCracken 10-Peter Venancio

LT. MIDDLEWEIGHT Ch: Vacant 1-Raul Marquez 2-Terry Norris 3-Verno Phillips 4-Tony Marshall 5-Bronco McKart 6-Hector Camacho 7-Troy Waters 8-Quirino Garcia 9-David Reid 10-Mamadou Thiam

WELTERWEIGHT Ch: Jose Rivera 1-Pernell Whitaker 2-Juan Martin Coggi 3-Julio Cesar Chavez 4-Oba Carr 5-Jose Luis Lopez 6-Michele Piccirillo 7-Partick Charpentier 8-Alessandro Duran 9-Peter Malinga 10-Shannon Taylor

LT. WELTERWEIGHT Ch: Vacant Intercont Champ: Scott DePompe 1-Miguel A. Gonzalez 2-Kostya Tszyu 3-Soren Sondergaard 4-Giovanni Parisi 5-Rafael Ruelas 6-Hector Lopez 7-Ismael Chaves 8-Reggie Green 9-Zabdiel Judah 10-Michey Ward

LIGHTWEIGHT Ch: Vacant Intercont Champ: Wilfredo Ruiz 1-Olzubek Nasarov 2-Juan Molina 3-Angel Manfreddy 4-Stevie Johnston 5-Arturo Gatti 6-James Leija 7-Alberto Sicurella 8-Phillip Holiday 9-Orlando Canizales 10-Israel Cardona

SP. FEATHERWEIGHT Ch: Vacant Intercon Champ: Ian McLeod 1-Anatoly Alexandrov 2-Kevin Kelley 3-Gabriel Ruelas 4-Tom Johnson 5-Santos A. Rebolledo 6-Derrick Gainer 7-Julien Lorcy 8-Djamel Lifa 9-Takanori Hatakeyama 10-Justin Juuko

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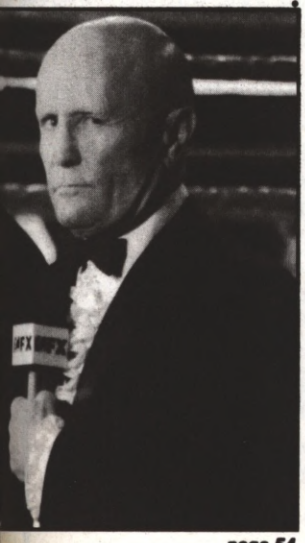

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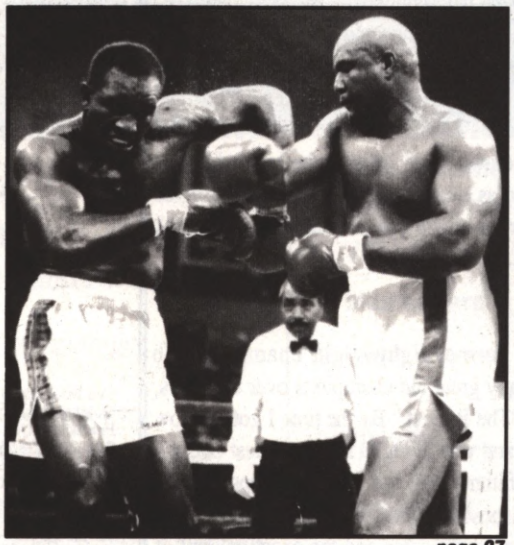

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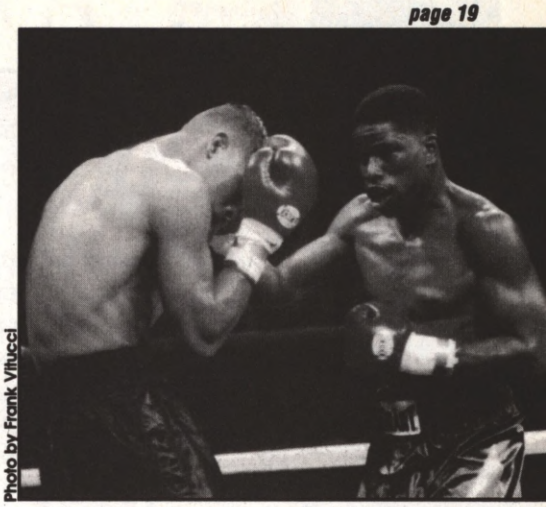

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Photo by Frank Vitucci

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RINGSIDE

THE RING'S editorial staff has been busy filling sandbags, cleaning sidearms, and honing its martial arts skills in preparation for the inevitable onslaught from unhappy readers that is bound to result as a consequence of this month's special section, "The 50 Greatest Heavyweights Of All-Time" *(page 27)*. Even before beginning the research for this massive project, we were aware that no matter the final standings, it would be impossible to please everybody.

Some of the difficulties involved in such an undertaking were predictable. For example, how do you evaluate old-timers like Jim Jeffries, who fought most of his career prior to the advent of motion pictures? The only fight film of Jeffries is his 15th-round knockout loss to Jack Johnson, which took place when "The Boilermaker" was well past his prime. And how much do you penalize fighters like John L. Sullivan, Gene Tunney, and Jack Dempsey, who drew the "color line" and refused to fight black boxers?

Other dilemmas, however, came as somewhat of a surprise and didn't become evident until we were deep into the endeavor. Perhaps the most perplexing of these was the realization that in order to reach our goal of 50, it would be necessary to include some heavyweights whose claim to "greatness" was tenuous at best. While there was no question that the first 25 or so belonged, as we neared the bottom of the list, deciding who to include and who to leave out became a far greater challenge. Frankly, having Ingemar Johansson, Tommy Burns, and Michael Moorer included among the all-time greats makes me a little queasy. But when faced with the less-than-appealing alternatives, all three made the cut.

It would, I'm sure, be much easier to compile an inventory of the 50 greatest fighters of all-time in another weight division. There have always been far more quality campaigners in the lower weight classes, but it is the heavyweights who have continually captured the imagination of the masses, earned the biggest paydays, and sold the most magazines. And besides, taking the easy way out has never been THE RING'S style. So despite the problems inherent in coming up with such an all-encompassing roster, we bit down on our pencils, kept typing, and went the distance.

Although not identical to the list I would have drawn up if I'd been the lone arbitrator, overall, I'm very pleased with the final results. And as even readers who strongly disagree with the rankings will have to concede, it's the sort of article that provides plenty to think about and abundant fodder for stimulating debate.

***

A personal note on the recent passing of former lightweight champion Bob Montgomery: I've had the pleasure of meeting many great old champions over the years, but few have left me with such a warm feeling as "The Bobcat." By the time I got to know him, Montgomery had blown all his ring earnings and was living in rather modest circumstances. But unlike so many pugs who become bitter when the cheering stops and the money dwindles away, Bob retained his sunny disposition until the end. He still vividly remembered the details of all his fights, right down to the dates and the exact amount of his purses. Inside the ring, he was a vicious, ruthless competitor who showed no mercy. Outside, he was a kind and gentle man who fought just as hard for civil rights as he did for fistic glory. Rest in peace, champ. Your days walking the planet may be over, but to boxing fans you'll always be one of the immortals.

Nigel Collins
Editor-in-Chief

Volume 77, No. 13 **Holiday 1998**

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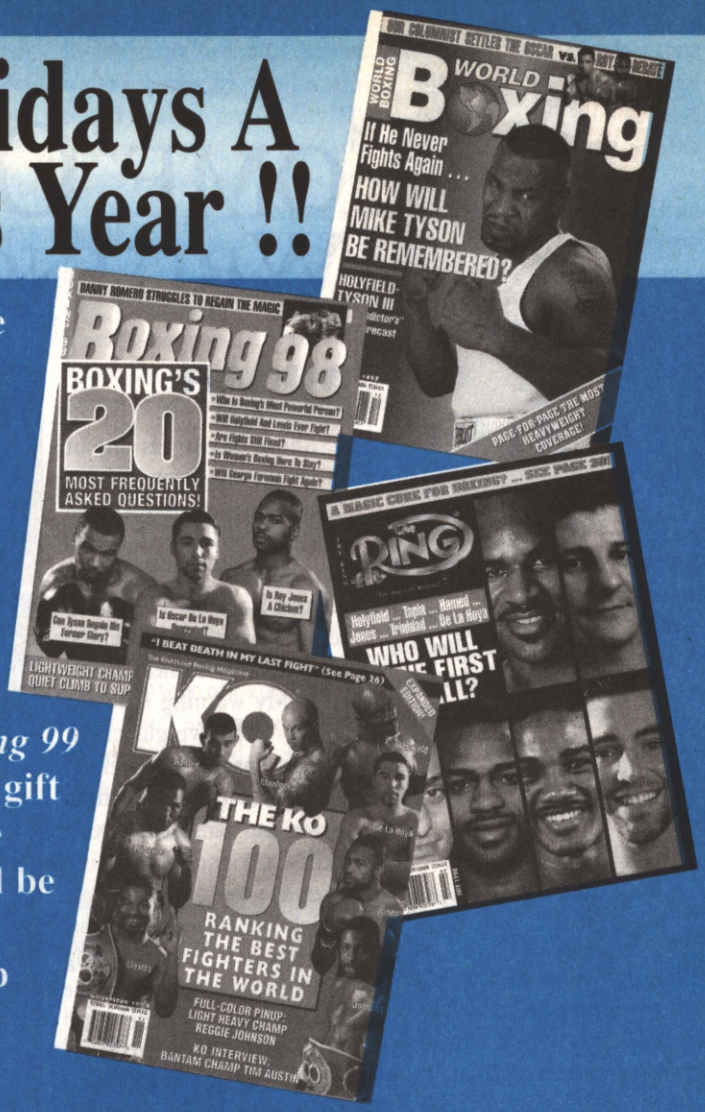

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COME OUT WRITING

We welcome your letters, which may be edited for reasons of space and clarity. Send your comments to Come Out Writing, The Ring, P.O. Box 1148, Ft. Washington, PA 19034

SUGAR RUSH

Shane Mosley is one of the most dangerous young fighters around today. He has punching power, speed, and boxing skills to dominate anyone from the 130-pound to 140-pound weight class. Shane is all business in the ring. My warning is to the junior welterweight class: "Sugar Shane" will win yet another belt. His punching power and dangerous boxing skills are enough to give even the top junior welterweight contenders problems. The next few years are going to be exciting, watching this young champion develop into an excellent fighter who's able to win belts in a few weight classes.

WALTER WILLIAMS
Nashville, TN

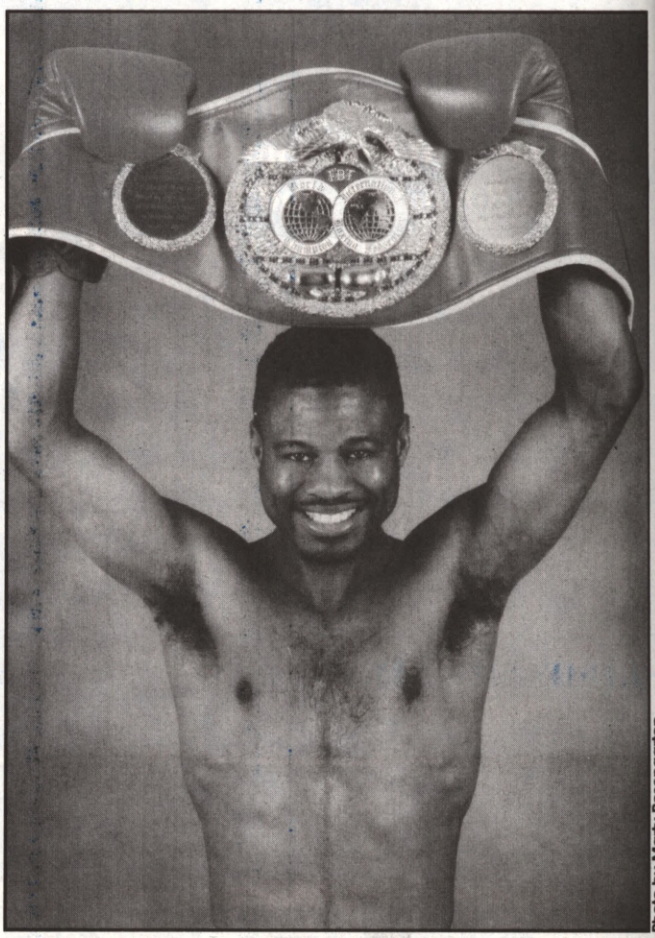


Photo by Marty Rosengarten

Shane Mosley, the IBF lightweight champion, will turn into a multi-division champion by the end of his career, according to reader Walter Williams.

LOOK OUT FOR LOPEZ

Watch out Oscar "Pretty Boy" De La Hoya, Pernell "Monkey Around" Whitaker, and Felix "Tito" Trinidad, here comes Jose Luis "El Maestrito" Lopez to get ya' all. You can run, but you can't hide. In Lopez, we have a very tough Mexican who has foot speed, hand speed, one-punch knockout power, good head and shoulder movement, and punches in bunches. The way in which Lopez knocked out Yory Boy Campas was phenomenal! The way he gave several top American fighters a beating was very impressive. Most of all, his eagerness to fight anybody at any time is what commands my respect.

MAURICIO LEON RIVERA
Oceanside, CA

TOO SWEET A DANCER

The last thing I did with my father before he died was go to an exhilarating fight, Muhammad Ali vs. Joe Frazier. It was a fight, a boxing match, a historic event, our hearts raced with the action. Using this fight as a reference, I look at a lot of the modern crop of gold-diggers, dancers, and scam-artists with contempt. Where does a breakdancer like Pernell "Sweet Pea" Whitaker stand next to Henry Armstrong, Jack Dempsey, Joe Louis, or Ali? He'd probably stand a better chance as a replacement for Cyd Charisse, but

then Fred Astaire might not like his style either—too much hide-and-seek. There are no other fighters in your pound-for-pound ratings who have such an abysmal knockout percentage. Are you rating fighters who really fight, or dancers like Pernell Charisse?

I thought pound-for-pound was reserved for devastating fighters, not breakdancers. If we're voting for who the best fighters are pound-for-pound, my vote goes to Roy Jones and Oscar De La Hoya. But I'd bet that Pernell would be fine to watch in *Singing In The Rain*. If you insist on keeping Whitaker in your top 10, then my vote goes to John Travolta.

MARK MOLDAVER
Paris, France

BEP TALK

I enjoyed the contribution of Pete Ehrmann in the October 1998 issue of THE RING ("Not Just Another Joe") about Baby Joe Gans. I was surprised to read something about "The Dutch Windmill," Bep Van Klaveren. I think the article doesn't do justice to Van Klaveren's great accomplishments. Reading the article, one might get the impression that Van Klaveren wasn't much of a fighter, as Ehrmann states in a straight fight, Van Klaveren wouldn't have won against Baby Joe Gans. I disagree. Van Klaveren was a hellùva fighter who beat Ceferino Garcia and Kid Azteca, and he was sure one of the best welterweights in the 1930s. He won the gold medal at the Olympics in Amsterdam 1928 and was the best boxer to ever come out of the Netherlands. If Baby Joe and Bep could fight today, I would bet a lot of money on Bep!

LEX JANSEN
The Hague, Netherlands

LINEAR LUNACY

I have to address a point in your November 1998 issue. Jeff Ryan's notion in his "Ryan Out Loud" column that Evander Holyfield is not yet a three-time world heavyweight champion by virtue of not having won the mythical, so-called "linear" title held by the vastly overrated Lennox Lewis is ludicrous. The last time we saw Lewis, he was cowering with his back turned in the first round against the mighty Shannon Briggs, who won it from George Foreman in a fight where the only thing missing was the judges wearing masks and carrying guns.

The linear title itself does not exist. The title is predicated on "the man who beat the man," which would be fine if each champ beat the champ before him, but two retired undefeated as heavyweight champions: Gene Tunney and Rocky Marciano. Thus, from Tunney onwards, it was the consensus champ who was recognized. Evander Holyfield became that after he beat the consensus champ before him, one "Iron" Mike Tyson.

BRAD MORRIS
Kingsway, NY

A "FEROCIOUS" FUTURE

I've only seen Fernando Vargas fight twice, and from watching those two fights, I have seen that he is an incredibly talented young boxer. I really see him becoming the next De La Hoya, maybe even better. He has a lot of skills for his age. Even though I'm a 13-year-old girl, and girls are not supposed to know very much about this sport, I know what kind of skills boxers are supposed to have, and he definitely has *all* of them. I bet in a couple of years, he'll be in the top 10 of your pound-for-pound list.

TARYN VALLEJO
Las Vegas, NV

ROBINSON-GATTI, JUST SENSATIONAL

My wife and I consider ourselves very fortunate to have been included among the roaring 2,600 in attendance who witnessed the sensational bout between Ivan Robinson and Arturo Gatti in Atlantic City. That evening, Robinson and Gatti demonstrated all that is good about boxing in possibly the Fight of the Year, including total professionalism before, during, and after the contest. Both fighters deserve the highest congratulations for their performances, and Lou DiBella of HBO deserves continued recognition for making yet another tremendous *Boxing After Dark* matchup. Hopefully, the politics of boxing will allow for a justified rematch to be arranged shortly. I guarantee that two tickets would be quickly spoken for.

In addition, despite the fact that no bogus title was at stake, the fight certainly provided another opportunity for the popular sports media to portray pro boxing in a more positive light. Sports journalists seemingly obsessed with every breath of the petulant millionaires in baseball, basketball, and football will hopefully decide to use their supposed objectivity and report some positive news about boxing by giving Robinson, Gatti, and the match some rightfully deserved favorable attention.

GARY KINN
Marlton, NJ ■

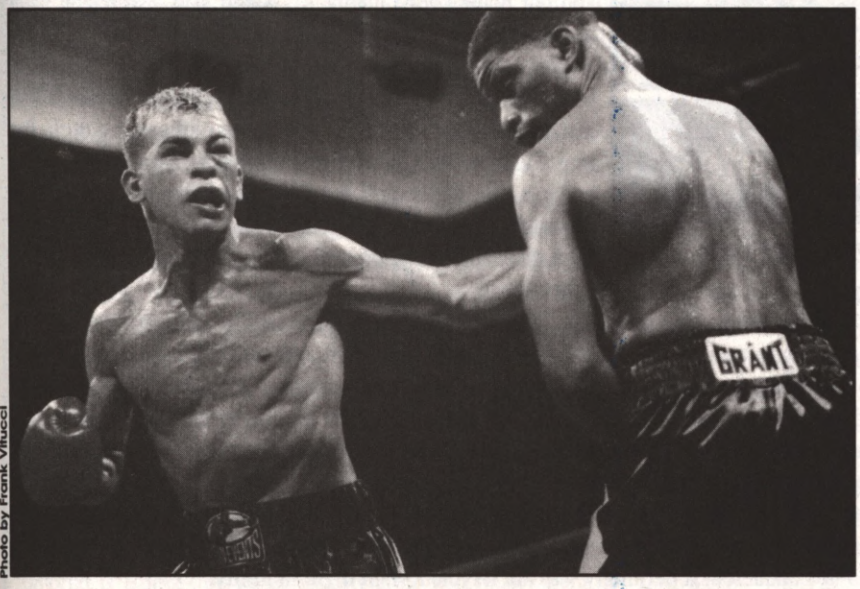


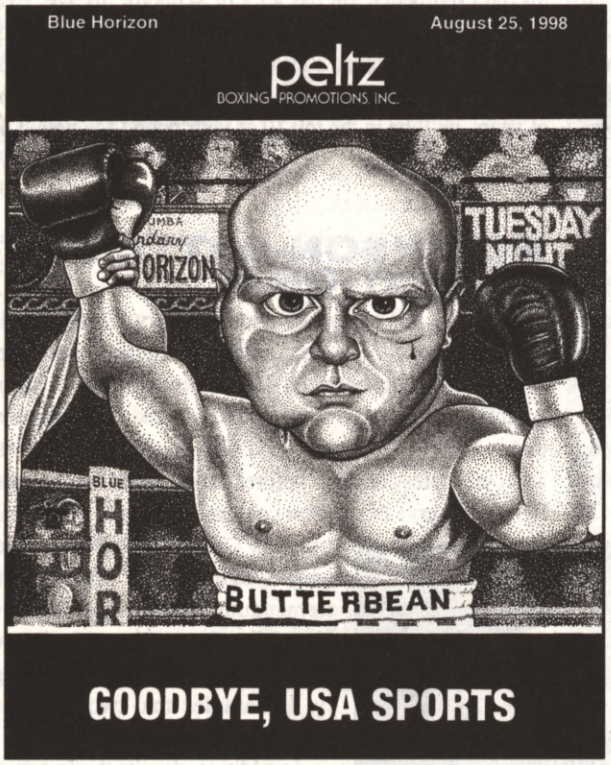
Photo by Frank Vitucci

If Ivan Robinson and Arturo Gatti meet again, reader Gary Kinn says he'll definitely buy a ticket. In their August '98 meeting, Robinson scored a split decision over the hard-charging Gatti in what many consider the favorite to be named Fight of the Year.

ROUND ONE

THE FINAL FAREWELL

Butterbean at the Blue Horizon. Even if you had been locked in a closet all summer and hadn't heard that USA's *Tuesday Night Fights* was going off the air, the simple fact that boxing's number-one novelty act was headlining at boxing's most hardcore venue had to tell you that something out of the ordinary was going down.



The program from the final Tuesday Night Fights

The whole evening of August 25 was quite atypical of what fans had grown used to seeing on a Tuesday night at the legendary Philadelphia fight club. There were TV monitors positioned throughout the building, ring announcer Mark Beiro stood in the spot normally occupied by Ed Derian, commentators Al Albert and Sean O'Grady were both decked out in tuxes and were positioned next to a giant video screen on the stage instead of their usual seats at ringside, an entire section of seats was reserved for guests of USA network, and big-shot politicians like U.S. Senator John McCain and Pennsylvania Governor Tom Ridge were among those in attendance. Just about the only thing reminding fans that this was in fact "The Blue" was the thermometer on the wall that read in excess of 90 degrees.

Albert and O'Grady kicked off the festivities by addressing the live crowd, and showed that the loss of their jobs hadn't diminished their senses of humor. "We want to give you our home phone numbers," Albert said, "so if you have any work around the house, just give us a call."

The televised program was a sappy but wholly enjoyable tribute to *TNF's* 17-year run, but for the live audience, it was just an unbearably hot night with far too little going on in the ring. There were only two fights during the broadcast, the first being a dreadfully dull four-rounder between junior middleweight prospects Curtis Barker and Rogelio Martinez that even this unusually appreciative Blue Horizon crowd couldn't help but boo.

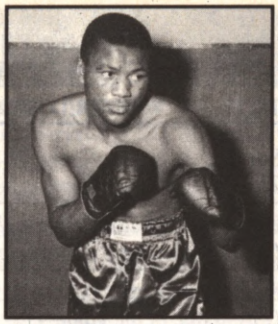
Then came the Bean, who made his fight with Tim Pollard mercifully short by blasting out his opponent with a stern right to the mush at the 1:37 mark of round one. While some fans hung around to throw cheesesteaks at "The King Of The Four-Rounders," most participated in the mass exodus from the stifling heat and raced back home to catch the end of the show in their air-conditioned living rooms. You couldn't take anything away from Butterbean, though. Perhaps inspired by the absurdly well-muscled illustration of himself on the cover of the fight program, he took care of business in style. Even Pollard was spotted in the lobby afterward clamoring for an autograph from the super heavyweight. Not only had Butterbean come to the Blue Horizon, he saw and he conquered. It definitely was not a typical fight night in Philly.

—Eric Raskin

BOB MONTGOMERY, 1919-1998

Boxing lost one its few remaining links to the golden era of Joe Louis and Henry Armstrong when former lightweight champion Bob Montgomery, 79, died on August 25 at the Coatesville (Pennsylvania) Veterans Hospital, where he was recovering from a recent stroke. Known as "The Bobcat" for his fierce, attacking style, Montgomery, 75-19-3 (37), had a classic four-bout series (2-2) with Beau Jack, from whom he won the then-prestigious New York version of the world title on May 21, 1943. After losing the title to Jack in a rematch, Montgomery regained the belt on March 3, 1944, and kept it until August 4, 1947, when he was knocked out by previous victim Ike Williams.

Montgomery, the son of a sharecropper father and a Cherokee mother, left his Sumter, South Carolina, birthplace at age 14 and hitchhiked north to Philadelphia, where he lived the rest of his life. He was a civil rights pioneer who marched with Cecil B. Moore to protest the color barrier and insisted that black reporters and photographers were accorded the same media privileges as whites at his fights. Montgomery, who was inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame in '95, earned an estimated $1-million during his career (1939-'50) and taught actor John Garfield some of the moves he used in the movie *Body And Soul*.



Montgomery: World champ and Civil rights pioneer

—Nigel Collins

COVER GIRL

Galvez proudly displays the October cover

Some fighters spend years taking on the best competition in the world, winning title fight after title fight, and never make it onto the cover of THE RING. World champions Ricardo Lopez, Mark Johnson, and Shane Mosley have never been on the cover. But Rachel Galvez has.

El Paso resident Galvez made up a nifty sign, held it up high at the right moment, and next thing you know, she's on the cover of THE RING. The October 1998 issue, featuring the headline "Oscarmania!" and a photo of the rabid De La Hoya fans that packed into the Sun Bowl in June to see "The Golden Boy," sees Galvez featured prominently, holding up her "I [heart] U Oscar" sign. And after a notice was posted in the *El Paso Times* that we were looking to identify this mystery woman, Galvez came forward to claim 12 complimentary issues of the magazine, a RING T-shirt and hat, and additional exposure.

"You cannot believe how excited I was to see myself on the front cover of THE RING's October issue!" Galvez wrote to us. "I have been on cloud nine since this magazine came out!"

THE BOXING BOOKSHELF

There's a mystery that comes with the new autobiography of Larry Holmes as puzzling as why the co-author (along with Phil Berger), with $40-million salted away from his career as the best heavyweight of his era, is still getting punched in the head a year shy of his 50th birthday.

The cover picture you see here of *Larry Holmes: Against The Odds* (St. Martin's Press, $23.95, 279 pages) is not the one that adorned the original book. It was pasted over the review copy, and I believe an explanation may be gleaned by the description of the book on the outside back cover as "the autobiography of one of the most beloved heavyweight boxing champions of all-time." Some experts argue that Holmes belongs among the greatest heavyweights ever, and I will politely bow to their wisdom. But my inability to recall anyone outside of Holmes' immediate family ever using the word "beloved" in connection with him makes me wonder if the same editor who wrote that blurb didn't slap a picture of Muhammad Ali or George Foreman on the original cover by mistake.

There are a few mildly endearing passages here (of which my favorite is Holmes on Foreman, whom he will finally fight in January: "Him on TV with that big, phony smile. He didn't fool me. What kind of man calls all his children George or Georgette? Can't he take the time to remember their names? I really wanted to kick his fat ass.") And Holmes doesn't have half the attitude that Joe Frazier copped in his autobiographical collaboration with Berger, the former *New York Times* boxing writer.

But in the end, Lovable Larry still comes across as the same old guy whining about his "just dues" and blaming "boxing politics" for most of the bad things that happened to him. He blames Don King, too, of course. But other than calling King a lot of names and relating some vaguely familiar stories about incidents in their long relationship, Holmes never lays out a specific bill of attainder against the man he "trucked along with" in spite of everything. We never even find out what he told the grand jury after being granted immunity in one of the earlier federal probes into King's operations. If he had included that, the cover blurb might actually be accurate.

We find out that Holmes doesn't like Butterbean or women's boxing, so there's still hope. Jack Dempsey—not even close to beloved until he lost the title—came out with three or four autobiographies in his lifetime, so maybe in his next literary incarnation—provided Big George doesn't render him unable to remember his own name—"The Easton Assassin" will mellow out even further.

—Pete Ehrmann

TV FIGHTS OF THE MONTH

DATE	WINNER/LOSER	NETWORK	DIVISION	SIGNIFICANCE	MATCHUP	RESULT
8-9-98	Kenny Keene W 12 Dominick Carter	ESPN2	c	C+	B	B+
There's no doubt; Keene is definitely the best cruiser in Emmett, Idaho						
8-11-98	Hector Camacho W 12 Tony Menefee	USA	jm	D	C-	C-
Camacho can beat this type of opponent until he's 70, but who cares?						
8-15-98	Kirino Garcia W 8 Roland Rangel	PPV	jm	C	A	B+
Garcia one of the game's great stories, even if he's not a great fighter						
8-15-98	**Luisito Espinosa Tech. Win 11 Juan Carlos Ramirez**	**PPV**	**WBC f**	**B+**	**B**	**B+**
This one screams for a sequel; Ramirez closing in at end						
8-15-98	Kostya Tszyu KO 9 Rafael Ruelas	PPV	jw	A-	A	B-
Tszyu the purest puncher around; Miguel Angel Gonzalez awaits						
8-15-98	Melchor Cob-Castro KO 8 Tomas Rivera	Uni	fl	B	B-	C+
This was as one-sided as you can get; Rivera never in it						
8-18-98	Derrick Gainer W 10 Bernard Harris	USA	f	A-	C	C
Gainer's getting close to a title shot; will it be against The Prince?						
8-18-98	Vernon Forrest KO 11 Adrian Stone	USA	w	C+	B	B+
When De La Hoya, Quartey, and Trinidad depart, Forrest will be the man						
8-22-98	Fernando Vargas KO 6 Darren Maciunski	HBO	jm	A-	A	B+
"Ferocious" passes another test, but is he ready for Campas?						
8-22-98	Ivan Robinson W 10 Arturo Gatti	HBO	l	A-	B	A+
If you missed it, you have our condolences; get the tape						
8-25-98	Butterbean KO 1 Tim Pollard	USA	h	F	D	D
This was the best TNF could come up with for the finale? Good riddance						
8-28-98	Mauricio Pastrana KO 9 Carlos Murillo	USSB	jfl	B+	B+	B
Pastrana wins, but is stripped of the IBF belt for not making weight						
8-28-98	Johnny Tapia W 10 Carlos Hernandez	USSB	b	C	C-	B-
Anyone else notice that Tapia hasn't fought a decent opponent since Romero?						
8-28-98	**Bernard Hopkins No-Contest 4 Robert Allen**	**Show**	**IBF m**	**A**	**A**	**B-**
Things getting dicey for "The Executioner" when the end came; can't wait for the rematch						
8-28-98	**William Joppy KO 3 Roberto Duran**	**Show**	**WBA m**	**A-**	**F**	**D-**
This was even worse than we thought it would be; Duran a heavybag						
8-30-98	Antonio Tarver KO 2 Rocky Gannon	ESPN2	lh	B+	A-	B+
"Magic Man" ready to call on some top-10 light heavies						
9-4-98	Ike Ibeabuchi KO 9 Everton Davis	ESPN2	h	B	D	C-
It wasn't his most impressive outing, but it's good to see "The President" back in action						
9-4-98	**Mark Johnson KO 6 Jose Laureano**	**ESPN2**	**IBF fl**	**A-**	**B-**	**B+**
"Too Sharp" turns in typically dominant performance in final flyweight bout						
9-11-98	Leah Mellinger W 10 Kathy Collins	ESPN2	jw	C-	B+	C
If an all-women's card is ESPN's answer to the departure of TNF, we're in trouble						
9-12-98	Cesar Soto W 10 Carlos Rios	HBO	f	B+	A	B+
Is it just us or does Rios look an awful lot like Carmen Basilio?						
9-12-98	**Erik Morales KO 4 Junior Jones**	**HBO**	**WBC jf**	**A+**	**A-**	**A-**
What is it that Jones is doing while everyone else in the gym is skipping rope, sparring, etc?						
9-12-98	Jorge Paez W 10 Victor Hugo Paz	Uni	jl	C+	B	B-
We know it doesn't seem possible, but yes, Paez can still fight a little						

Category Explanation: "Significance"—The importance of the bout to the division and the fighters' futures; "Matchup"—The quality of the fighters and the prefight determination of how their styles will mesh; "Result"—How the bout turned out, from the viewer's perspective.

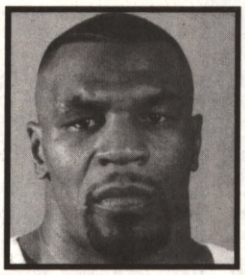
(World title fights in **bold** type)

Division key: h—heavyweight; c—cruiserweight; lh—light heavyweight; sm—super middleweight; m—middleweight; jm—junior middleweight; w—welterweight; jw—junior welterweight; l—lightweight; jl—junior lightweight; f—featherweight; jf—junior featherweight; b—bantamweight; jb—junior bantamweight; fl—flyweight; jfl—junior flyweight; s—strawweight

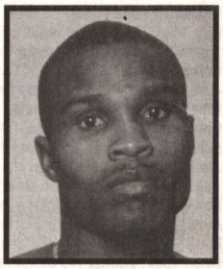
Network key: PPV—Pay-Per-View; Show—Showtime

OUTSIDE THE ROPES

An assault charge was filed in early-September against **Mike Tyson** following the ex-champ's alleged violent rage after a minor traffic accident. **Richard Hardick**, 50, says his car was rear-ended, and he subsequently rear-ended the car being driven by Tyson's wife. While Hardick and the driver of the third car were discussing the accident, Tyson reportedly punched the other driver and later kicked Hardick in the groin. "Iron Mike" checked into a hospital later in the day, claiming he was suffering chest pains. Tyson, who is still on probation from his 1992 rape conviction, could face 10 years in jail and/or a $2,500 fine ... In other heavyweights-in-trouble news, former "linear" champion **Shannon Briggs** was arrested along with three friends after a fight in New Orleans in August. Four people sustained minor injuries, and Briggs spent a night in jail on charges of simple battery ... Another former heavyweight champ, **Michael Dokes**, is in far more serious trouble than Tyson or Briggs. He was arrested in Las Vegas in late-August on charges of sexual assault, attempted murder, and false imprisonment. Police said Dokes viciously beat his fiancee, held her against her will for several hours, and then sexually assaulted her ... **Main Events** sued IBF junior lightweight champ **Roberto Garcia** and **America Presents** in August, claiming Garcia violated their contract when he joined with the Denver-based promotional company. According to the lawsuit, Garcia had signed a two-year pact with Main Events in January ... In August, British promoter **Frank Warren** announced that heavyweight **Frans Botha**, featherweight **Angel Vazquez**, and junior featherweight **Marco Antonio Barrera** had all signed on with him. This should put Vazquez and Barrera in position for big-money fights with the star of Warren's stable, **Naseem Hamed** ... It was reported in August that former heavyweight contender **Jimmy Bivins** was making a strong recovery from the incident in April when he was found neglected and nearly wasted away in an attic. Bivins, whose weight had dropped to 110 pounds, was back up to 176 by the end of his three-month stay in a nursing home ... **Ike Quartey** was stripped of the WBA welterweight title after malaria forced him to back out of his August 20 mandatory title defense against **Andrei Pestriaev**. Pestriaev is expected to fight **James Page** for the vacant title, while Quartey is scheduled for a November 21 showdown with WBC champ **Oscar De La Hoya**.



Tyson: Kicking below the belt



Quartey: Stripped of the title

THE PUNCHLINES

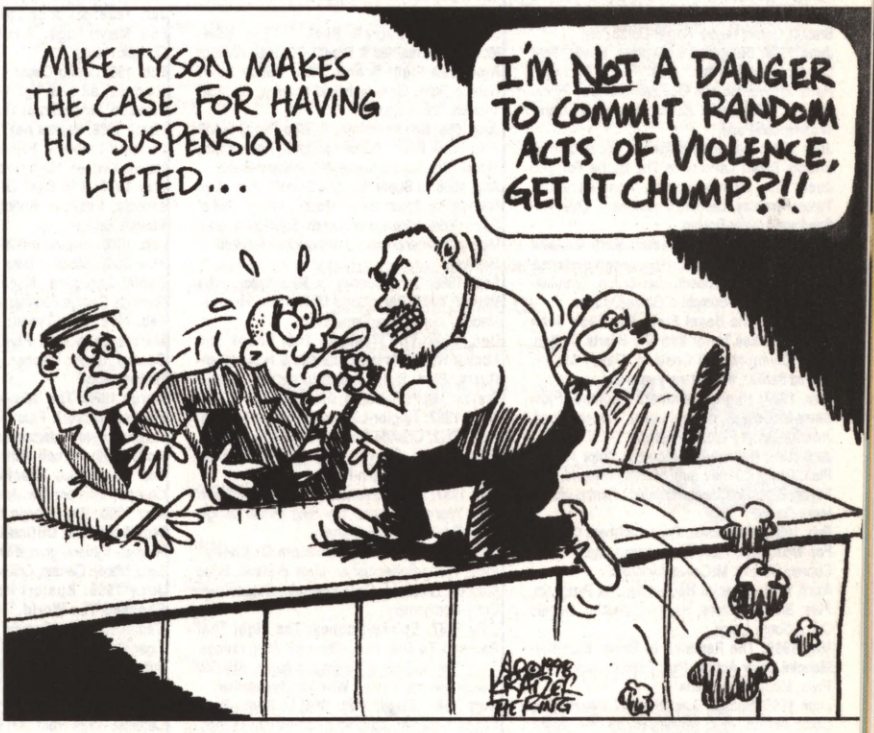
"You've been boring the hell out of the middleweight division. People don't even talk about the middleweight division because of you."

—Robert Allen, to IBF middleweight champion Bernard Hopkins at the press conference before their August fight

"More people would pay to see Butterbean fight Evander Holyfield than to see Vaughn Bean fight him."

—Butterbean, on the prospect of a fight with the WBA/IBF champion

AL KRATZER'S VIEW



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March 1986 (Awards Issue): Co-Fighters Of The Year: Marvelous Marvin Hagler & Donald Curry. Plus: Ring's Annual Awards, Evander Holyfield, Williamson-Muhammad, Camacho-Roach, 1985 boxing diary.

April 1986: Witherspoon Tames Tubbs For WBA Title. Plus: Dream fights, Greg Haugen, Tyrell Biggs, Mark Breland, Paul Gonzales, HBO tourney, Witherspoon-Tubbs, Frank Warren, Gene Tunney.

May 1986: Marvelous Marvin Tames The Beast. Plus: Hearns-Shuler, Mike Tyson, Bramble-Crawley, Sandoval-Canizales, Marvin Johnson, McGuigan-Cabrera, Arguello-Costello, Weaver-Williams.

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Sept. 1986: Gerry Cooney vs. Mike Tyson: Who Would Win? Plus: Cruz-McGuigan, Hearns-Medal, Tyson-Gross, Sims-Duran.

Dec. 1986: The Weekend That Shook The Boxing World. Rosario-Bramble & Honeyghan-Curry. Plus: Butch Lewis interview, Buster Drayton, Hector Camacho, Jake LaMotta.

April 1987: Hagler-Leonard Souvenir Issue. Plus: Czyz, Orlando Canizales, Mugabi-Thomas, Biggs-Snipes, Chavez-LaPorte, Bonecrusher-Witherspoon II, Haugen-Paul.

May 1987: Mike Tyson: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Year-end awards, *The Ring* annual ratings, Louie Espinoza, Herol Graham.

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July 1987: Spinks-Cooney: The Fight That Refused To Die. Plus: The new *Ring* ratings, Terry Marsh, George Foreman's return, Khaosai Galaxy, Hearns-Andries, Whitaker-Mayweather.

Aug. 1987: Sugar Ray: Still In Style. Plus: Leonard-Hagler, all-time heavyweight ratings, Czyz-MacDonald, Camacho-Davis.

Sept. 1987: Michael Olajide: The Look Of The Future? Plus: Tyson-Thomas, Jeff Fenech, middleweight muddle, Tsuyoshi Hamada, Juan Roldan, Harold Knight.

Nov. 1987: Tyson Wins Heavyweight Triple Crown. Plus: McCallum-Curry, Carlos Monzon interview, triple champions, Orlin & Terry Norris, Ramirez-Alli, Fenech-Richardson, Matthew Hilton.

Dec. 1987: Spinks & Lewis: Boxing's Beastie Boys. Plus: Starling-Breland, Ramzi Hassan, Honeyghan-Hatcher, Holyfield-Ocasio.

Jan. 1988: Darrin Van Horn-Million Dollar Baby? Plus: Evander Holyfield, Hill-Stewart, Juan Coggi, great hookers, AIDS.

Feb. 1988: Gold Outshines Glitter: Tate Tops Olajide. Plus: Tyson-Biggs, Kalambay-Barkley, Hearns-Roldan, fights we'd like to see.

March 1988: Thomas "Hit Man" Hearns: "Now I Own History." Plus: Rocky Lockridge & Roger Mayweather, Panama, Tony Burton, Chavez-Rosario, Gervacio-Espinoza, Vaca-Honeyghan.

April 1988: Evander Holyfield: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Special year-end awards, Holyfield-Qawi II, Foreman-Sekorski, Hill-Angulo.

May 1988: George Foreman: "I Can Beat Tyson." Plus: Tyson-Holmes, Jesse Benavides, Showtime, no-knockout artists.

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Jan. 1989: Meldrick Taylor: Philly Phenom. Plus: Marvin Hagler, Alex Wallau, Taylor-McGirt, Olympic results.

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March 1989: Hearns Next For Sugar Ray? Plus: Leonard-Lalonde, Prince Charles Williams, Hearns-Kinchen, Nunn-Roldan, Hines-Hilton.

May 1989: The Best Of '88. Plus: Year-end awards, Evander Holyfield, Pryor-Morales, Fenech-Navarro.

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Feb. 1990: Mike Tyson: Riddick Bowe & Ray Mercer Take Aim. Plus: Bobby Czyz, Gerry Cooney, Chuck Wepner, Antonio Esparragoza, Roman-Laciar.

March 1990: The '80s—Great Fights, Great Fighters (color). Plus: Jeff Harding, Evander Holyfield, Pete Rademacher, Sharkey-McCoy.

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July 1990: "I'm Hungrier Than Ever Before," By Evander Holyfield. Plus: James Toney, Buddy McGirt, Glenwood Brown, Aaron Davis, Michael Carbajal, Jorge Paez, Kid Gavilan, Mark Breland, Ali-Liston II (color).

Aug. 1990: Chavez: His Greatness Confirmed ... Is He The Best Mexican Fighter Ever? Plus: Matthew Saad Muhammad, John L. Sullivan & Mike Tyson, Michael Nunn, Mark Breland, Harold Johnson, Cus D'Amato, Louis-Godoy (color).

Sept. 1990: Marvin Hagler-Can He Resist The Irresistible Temptation? Plus: Thomas Hearns, Sanchez-Saddler, Paul Banke, puncher vs. chin, Beau Jack, Robinson-LaMotta (color).

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Nov. 1990: Tyson vs. Foreman. Can Iron Mike Stop The Blast From The Past? Plus: Bruce Seldon, best chins, Sullivan-Kilrain (color), Azumah Nelson, LaStarza.

Dec. 1990: Exclusive Annual Report: The State Of The Game. Plus: Douglas-Holyfield preview, Julio Cesar Chavez, Joe Grim, Whitaker-Nazario, Rosi-Van Horn, Benny Leonard, Douglas-Tyson (color).

Jan. 1991: Boxing's Baddest Bad Boy: Nigel Benn Plays By His Own Rules. Plus: Roberto Duran, Kid Akeem, Jose Napoles, Jimmy Carruthers, LaMotta-Zale, Dempsey-Willard (color).

Feb. 1991: Boxing On TV—Now You'll Pay! Plus: Ismael Laguna, Tommy Morrison in *Rocky V*, Reggie Tuur, Chiquita Gonzalez, Harold Green, Joe Louis.

March 1991: Hunger! It Made Evander A Champ, But ... Plus: Dempsey-Firpo, Charles Murray, Khaosai Galaxy, Nunn-Curry, Henry Armstrong, Sonny Liston (color).

April 1991: Julio Cesar Chavez—Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Tyson-Stewart, James Leija, Wilfred Benitez, Pedro Decima, Moore-Bassey.

May 1991: Ali-Frazier I: 20 Years Late, Still The Fight Of The Century (color). Plus: fighting at home, Mark McPherson, George Costner, Rolando Pascua, Tony Canzoneri.

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July 1991: Tyson's Title Hopes: He Ain't What He Used To Be...But It's Not Gonna Matter. Plus: Eusebio Pedroza, Myung Woo Yuh, Willie Meehan, Hearns-Hill preview, computer junior welterweight tournament, Gomez-Fenech, controversial heavyweight finishes (color).

Aug. 1991: Foreman Gives Holyfield A Fight ... And The World A Thrill (color). Plus: Making weight, Harry Greb, Kevin Kelley, Louis-Conn I, Simon Brown-Blocker, Chavez-Duplessis, Sugar Ray Robinson.

Oct. 1991: A Hit Again-How Far Can Thomas Hearns Go? Plus: Battling Levinsky, Oba Carr, Dave McAuley, Muhammad Ali, Lou Ambers, Luther McCarty, ethnic matchups, computer light heavy tournament, Cerdan-Hagler, Rocky Marciano (color).

Nov. 1991: Mike Tyson's Fight For Greatness—Will November 8 Be His Moment? Plus: Edwin Rosario, Jeff Fenech, overrated/underrated, Giardello-Graham, Lennox Lewis, Marcel Cerdan, Leonard-Hearns I, heavyweight computer tournament, Ali portrait (color).

Dec. 1991: Evander Holyfield vs. Mike Tyson: Who Will Win And Why. Plus: Eddie Aliano, Jack Britton, Muhammad Ali, Pernell Whitaker, rating the 44 world champions, Marcel Cerdan, Henry Cooper, Ezzard Charles-Jersey Joe Walcott (color).

Jan. 1992: Our Exclusive Annual Report: The State Of The Game. Plus: Jerry Quarry, Julio Cesar Chavez, Mysterious Billy Smith, Joey Gamache, moving up in weight, Billy Conn-Michael Spinks, Joe Louis (color).

May 1992: James Toney—Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Myung Woo Yuh, Khaosai Galaxy, Rocky Graziano, Billy Soose, Roy Jones, James Warring, Duran-Chavez, Marvin Hagler (color).

June 1992: What Now? Boxing Without Mike Tyson. Plus: Buck Smith, Liston-Foreman, Billy Graham, Holmes-Mercer, Enrique Pinder, Hilario Zapata, Toney-Tiberi, Benny Lynch, Tony DeMarco, Tyson centerfold (color).

July 1992: Does Larry Holmes Deserve A Title Shot? Plus: Nelson-Fenech II, Tracy Patterson, Kelley-Dorsey, fat fighters, Buchanan-Camacho, Holmes-Ali (color).

Aug. 1992: Holyfield-Holmes Prefight. Holmes: "I See Me Takin' Holyfield Outta There." Plus: Iran Barkley, Herbie Hide, George Foreman, Tex Cobb, Carnival of Champions, Harry Greb, Haugen-Mancini, Oscar De La Hoya, Gene Tunney (color).

Sept. 1992: Chavez: Unbeaten At 80-0, But What If He Had To Face These Guys? Plus: Bobby Czyz, Genaro Hernandez, Norris-Taylor, Tommy Gibbons, Sugar Ray Leonard's career, Sugar Ray Robinson (color).

Oct. 1992: The Supreme Dream: The Heavyweight Hopes Of The Heavyweight Hopefuls. Plus: Kevin Kelley, All-Time Top 10: South Africa, Meldrick Taylor, Sharmba Mitchell, Bob Foster, Eder Jofre, Max Baer (color).

Nov. 1992: Is Riddick Bowe The Next Heavyweight Champion? Plus: Morrison-Hipp, Canizales-Chandler, Chavez-Camacho preview, Australia Best of Nation, Tyson speaks from prison, Corbett-Sullivan (color), Tracy Patterson, Pat Barrett, Knockout Brown.

Feb. 1993: America's Tribute To The Brown Bomber: Joe Louis. Plus: Virgil Hill, Junior Jones, Roger Mayweather, Chicago boxing, Orlando Zulueta, Jose Napoles (color).

March 1993: From Question Man To Answer Man: Riddick Bowe Leaves No Doubts. Plus: Lennox Lewis, Lopez-Gamache, Frank Bruno, Rocky Kansas, Frank Fletcher, Crisanto Espana, Bowe-Lewis (color).

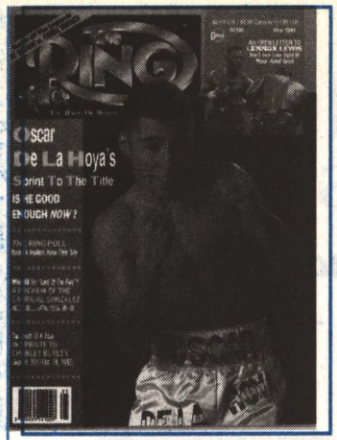
April 1993: Riddick Bowe: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: "Grand Slam" fight card, Toney-Barkley preview, Morris East, Joe Louis-John Henry Lewis, All-Time Top 10: Argentina, Fighters of the Year (color).

May 1993: Oscar De La Hoya's Sprint To The Title: Is He Good Enough *Now*? Plus: Carbajal-Gonzalez preview, Lennox Lewis, THE RING Poll, Freddie Pendleton.

Aug. 1993: A Ring Exclusive: Julio Cesar Chavez Speaks Out. Plus: Bobby Czyz, 10 hardest punchers, Rafael Ruelas, Carmen Basilio, closing of the Fifth Street Gym, Sugar Ray Leonard (color).

Oct. 1993: Tommy Morrison: Good Enough To Beat Big George, But Will He Win The Heavyweight Title? Plus: Riddick Bowe, Mike Capriano, Billy Conn-Joe Louis, All-Time Top 10: Puerto Rico, Charles Murray.

April 1994: Michael Carbajal: Fighter Of The



May 1993

Year. Plus: Brown-Norris, Kevin Kelley, Ceferino Garcia, Oscar De La Hoya, Tunney Hunsaker, Spinks-Foster.

May 1994 (92-Page Special) Division-By-Division: The Greatest Fighters Of All-Time. Plus: Virgil Hill & Orlando Canizales, Kostya Tszyu, James Toney, What If ... Dempsey vs. Wills.

June 1994: Moorer-Holyfield: Slugfest Or Stinker? Plus: Terry Norris, Paul Pender, Randall-Chavez I, Gonzales-Carbajal II, kickboxing.

Aug. 1994: Bowe's Back! Determined To Do It Again. Plus: Eric Griffin, Pernell Whitaker, Ray Mercer, Roger Donoghue, State of the Game (midterm report), All-Time Top 10: The Philippines.

Oct. 1994: Rating The Champs: Whitaker & Toney Lead The Field ... But Roy Jones Is Closing Fast. Plus: Oscar De La Hoya, Meldrick Taylor, Rafael Ruelas, Curtis Cokes.

Nov. 1994: With Lewis Fighting Bowe ... Is Michael Moorer's Career Off-Target? Plus: Wayne McCullough, Hall of Fame, Alejandro Lavorante, Rocky Marciano, Paz-Duran, Injuries (part I), What If ... Pedroza vs. Sanchez.

Dec. 1994: Fighting-Mad! James Toney Just Wants To Beat People Up. Plus: Duran & Robinson, Don King, Mike McCallum, Injuries (part II), Tom Molineaux.

Jan. 1995: A Puncher's Dream: Oliver McCall Upsets Boxing's Balance Of Power. Plus: Ruelas brothers, Quincy Taylor, "Unfinished Business," Dave Maier, All-Time Top 10: Canada.

May 1995: The State Of The Game. Plus: Olzubek & Arbachakov, Gonzalez-Kelley, Pazienza-Duran II, All-Time Top 10: France.

June 1995: (92-Page Special): Foreman Frowns Upon The Age Gap: "I Don't Think Tyson Should Fight Anyone But Me." Plus: Least deserving heavyweight challengers, Carlos Monzon, Kostya Tszyu.

July 1995: Pernell Whitaker: *The Ring* Makes "Pound-For-Pound" An Official Title. Plus: Riddick Bowe, Ike Quartey, Benn-McClellan, TV prospects, Hector Acero-Sanchez, Harry Matthews, What If ... Robinson-Burley.

Aug. 1995: Can Tyson Go From Great To All-Time Great? Plus: Antonio Barrera, Collins-Eubanks, Johnny Paychek, McCall-Holmes.

Oct. 1995: (92-Page Special): Mismatch? Don't Tell Peter McNeeley! Plus: Fights we'd like to see, Jo-el Scott, Bronco McKart, when stop fights?

Nov. 1995: A 6-1 Favorite vs. Any Champion: Maybe They Should Just Give Tyson The Title. Plus: Roy Jones, Riddick Bowe, Ancee Gedeon, Hall of Fame, LaMar Clark, All-Time Top 10: Italy, What If ... Saad Muhammad-Scott.

Dec. 1995: McNeeley Goes Too Soon—Mike Tyson: The Beast Is Yet To Come. Plus: Tommy Morrison, Naseem Hamed, Chiquita Gonzalez, Gaspar Ortega, best chins.

Winter 1995 (92-Page Special): Buster Mathis Jr.: "Mike Tyson, You Got A Fight Comin' On." Plus: Holyfield-Bowe III preview, Wayne McCullough, Jesse James Hughes, Norris-Vaden preview, *The Ring* Insiders' Poll, What If ... Moore-Ayala Jr.

Feb. 1996: Bowe's The Man (For Now), But Is He Man Enough For Tyson? Also: Lennox Lewis, Hamed-Barrera, Paul Banke, Vince Phillips, boxing on Madison Ave., What If ... Leonard-Pryor.

April 1996: Oscar De La Hoya—Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Mike Tyson, Gabe Ruelas, 1995 in review, All-Time Top 10: Africa.

May 1996: Exclusive Annual Report: The State Of The Game. Plus: Frankie Randall, Tim Witherspoon, Roy Jones, Bernard Hopkins.

June 1996 (92-Page Special): The Top 50 Fighters Of The Last 50 Years. Plus: Barrera-McKinney, Oscar De La Hoya, internet, Decade To Remember (1940s): Jimmy Bivins.

July 1996: Tyson! The Baddest ... But Is He The Best? Plus: De La Hoya-Chavez preview, Fabrice Tiozzo, Tommy Morrison & HIV, Malinga-Benn, closed-circuit, Chacon-Gomez.

Aug. 1996: A Closer Look At Tyson. Where He's At ... And Where He's Going. Plus: Joe Frazier, Roberto Duran, Buster Douglas, Arturo Gatti, women's boxing.

Sept. 1996: Lennox Lewis: Tough Enough For Tyson? Plus: Lewis-Mercer, Olympic team, Pernell Whitaker, Mark Johnson, Rocky, Scrapiron Johnson, heavyweight hopefuls.

Oct. 1996 (92-Page Special): A Lift For Boxing: Oscar's Timing Is Perfect! Plus: What's good and bad about boxing, Azumah Nelson, De La Hoya-Chavez, Charlie Powell.

Nov. 1996: Pole-Axed! Low Blows, Sinking Bowe, Ugly Show. Plus: Bowe-Golota I, Blinky Palermo, exciting fighters, Winky Wright, Joe Brown.

Dec. 1996: Our Spin On Roy Jones. Plus: heavyweight division, Olympic recap, Luis Rodriguez, Puerto Rican fighters, Danny Hodge, Saad Muhammad.

Jan. 1997: Riddick Bowe's Promise. "This Time I'm Whipping Golota's Ass!" Plus: David Reid, Whitaker-Rivera II, meaningless records, Dick Tiger, Jess Willard.

March 1997 (92-Page Special): Mike Tyson. Can He Reclaim His Greatness? Plus: 10 greatest controversies, Teddy Atlas & Michael Moorer, Kostya Tszyu, George Chuvalo.

April 1997: Evander Holyfield—Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Bowe-Golota II, Nigel Benn, David Reid, 1996 recap, Ray Actis, Joe Bugner.

May 1997: De La Hoya-Whitaker: Can "Sweet Pea" Stop Oscar's March To Greatness? Plus: Fitzsimmons-Corbett, Junior Jones, Phillip Holiday, Don King, Zaragoza-McCullough.

June 1997 (Special Collector's Issue): Holyfield-Tyson II: What It Means For Now ... And Forever. Plus: Holyfield-Tyson fight poster, Naseem Hamed, computer unification, Sayers-Heenan, state of the game.

July 1997: Leonard: There Wasn't Even A Ray Of Hope. Plus: Felix Trinidad, David Reid, Willie deWit & Shawn O'Sullivan, THE RING'S 75th anniversary, Moore-Durelle I.

Sept. 1997 (92-Page Special): Who's The Best? The Experts Make Their Pound-For-Pound Choice. Plus: Terry Norris, Junior Jones, George Foreman, greatest punchers, Tapia-Romero preview, Mark Tessman, Doc Anderson.

Oct. 1997: Bang! Naseem Hamed Takes Aim At America. Plus: Riddick Bowe, Phillips-Tszyu, Saman Sorjaturong, Bobby Dykes.

Nov. 1997: Mike Tyson: Is He Finished? Plus: Oscar De La Hoya, Ike Ibeabuchi, Hall of Fame weekend, mismatches.

Holiday 1997: Roy Jones: When He's Motivated, He's Unstoppable—Got That, Evander? Plus: Julio Cesar Green, Sugar Shane Mosley, boxers' day jobs, Tyson's mentor, Kid Lavigne.

Jan. 1998: Give This Man His Due! If You Can't Respect Oscar ... You Can't Respect Anyone! Plus: Sanchez-Mayweather, Morales-Zaragoza, Lucia Rijker, Marvin Johnson, characters.

Feb. 1998: Welter-Skelter! The Hottest Division In Boxing. Plus: Lewis-Golota, Olympic update, Art Shires, boxing I.Q.

March 1998 (92-Page Special): Into The Millennium With The Real Deal: THE RING'S Timeline For Evander Holyfield. Plus: Hernandez-Hernandez, Briggs-Foreman, 10 champs recall "The Day I Won The Title," Johnny Thompson.

April 1998: Evander Holyfield: THE RING'S Fighter Of The Year (Again!). Plus: Yory Boy Campas, Mullings-Norris, Pinkey Mitchell, Holyfield Q & A, Hamed-Kelley, Oscar De La Hoya.

May 1998: Wrestling With His Reinstatement: Is Tyson Biting The Hand That Feeds Him? Plus: Lewis-Briggs preview, Michael Grant, Manfredy-Gatti, Ski Goldstein, Dan Donnelly.

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THE RING RATINGS

For Period Ended September 13, 1998

How Our Ratings Are Compiled

In each division, fighters are ranked according to their abilities and accomplishments.

Being champion does not necessarily mean a fighter will be rated at the top of his weight class.

These ratings reflect how the best fighters in the world rate against one another.

Ratings By The Editors

Records By Fight Fax Inc.

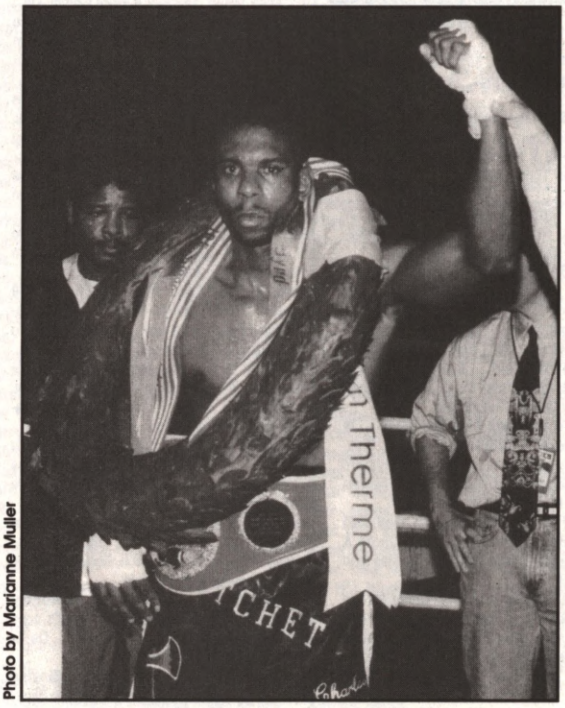

Photo by Marianne Muller

Brewer knocked out Antoine Byrd to maintain the number-two spot at super middleweight

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight Unlimited

1. **EVANDER HOLYFIELD** Fairburn, GA *35-3 (WBA/IBF Champ)*
2. **LENNOX LEWIS** England *33-1 (WBC Champ)*
3. **GEORGE FOREMAN** Marshall, TX *76-5*
4. **MICHAEL MOORER** Detroit, MI *39-2*
5. **MICHAEL GRANT** Norristown, PA *28-0*
6. **SHANNON BRIGGS** New York, NY *31-2*
7. **CHRIS BYRD** Flint, MI *26-0*
8. **IKE IBEABUCHI** Dallas, TX *19-0*
9. **DAVID TUA** Totowa, NJ *30-1*
10. **ANDREW GOLOTA** Chicago, IL *31-3*

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 190 pounds

1. **FABRICE TIOZZO** France *39-1 (WBA Champ)*
2. **JUAN CARLOS GOMEZ** Germany *23-0 (WBC Champ)*
3. **IMAMU MAYFIELD** New Brunswick, NJ *18-1 (IBF Champ)*
4. **MARCELO DOMINGUEZ** Argentina *23-2-1*
5. **CARL THOMPSON** England *24-4*
6. **ROBERT DANIELS** Miami, FL *38-3-1*
7. **ARTHUR WILLIAMS** Las Vegas, NV *28-4-1*
8. **RALF ROCCHIGIANI** Germany *40-9-7*
9. **SAUL MONTANA** Mexico *32-6*
10. **KENNY KEENE** Emmett, ID *43-3*

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 175 pounds

1. **ROY JONES** Pensacola, FL *37-1 (WBC/WBA Champ)*
2. **DARIUSZ MICHALCZEWSKI** Germany *38-0*
3. **REGGIE JOHNSON** Houston, TX *38-5-1 (IBF Champ)*
4. **MONTELL GRIFFIN** Chicago, IL *31-1*
5. **GRACIANO ROCCHIGIANI** Germany *40-4-1 (WBC Interim Champ)*
6. **LOU DEL VALLE** Bronx, NY *27-2*
7. **VIRGIL HILL** Bismarck, ND *43-3*
8. **MICHAEL NUNN** Davenport, IA *53-4*
9. **ANTONIO TARVER** Orlando, FL *11-0*
10. **WILLIAM GUTHRIE** Philadelphia, PA *24-1*

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 168 pounds

1. **FRANKIE LILES** N. Hollywood, CA *32-1 (WBA Champ)*
2. **CHARLES BREWER** Philadelphia, PA *32-5 (IBF Champ)*
3. **JOE CALZAGHE** Wales *25-0*
4. **RICHIE WOODHALL** England *25-1 (WBC Champ)*
5. **ROBIN REID** England *26-1-1*
6. **THOMAS TATE** Houston, TX *34-5*
7. **VINCENZO NARDIELLO** Italy *33-6*
8. **HEROL GRAHAM** England *48-6*
9. **ANDREI SCHKALIKOV** Russia *29-4-1*
10. **DEAN FRANCIS** England *21-1*

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 160 pounds

1. **BERNARD HOPKINS** Philadelphia, PA *34-2-1 (IBF Champ)*
2. **WILLIAM JOPPY** Washington, D.C. *26-1-1 (WBA Champ)*
3. **HASSINE CHERIFI** France *25-2-1 (WBC Champ)*
4. **OTIS GRANT** Canada *31-1-1*
5. **KEITH HOLMES** Washington, D.C. *30-2*
6. **ANTWUN ECHOLS** Davenport, IA *21-2-1*
7. **ROBERT ALLEN** Atlanta, GA *22-2*
8. **ROBERT McCRACKEN** England *31-0*
9. **JULIO CESAR GREEN** Brooklyn, NY *23-3*
10. **RYAN RHODES** England *17-1*

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 154 pounds

1. **LAURENT BOUDOUANI**
   France *37-2-1 (WBA Champ)*
2. **YORY BOY CAMPAS**
   Mexico *71-2 (IBF Champ)*
3. **KEITH MULLINGS**
   Brooklyn, NY *16-4-1 (WBC Champ)*
4. **TERRY NORRIS**
   Mission Valley, CA *47-7*
5. **HARRY SIMON**
   Namibia *17-0*
6. **JULIO CESAR VASQUEZ**
   Argentina *60-3*
7. **WINKY WRIGHT**
   St. Petersburg, FL *38-2*
8. **BRONCO McKART**
   Monroe, MI *35-2*
9. **TONY MARSHALL**
   Albany, NY *29-7-6*
10. **EMMETT LINTON**
    Tacoma, WA *25-2*

WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 147 pounds

1. **OSCAR DE LA HOYA**
   Whittier, CA *28-0 (WBC Champ)*
2. **FELIX TRINIDAD**
   Puerto Rico *33-0 (IBF Champ)*
3. **PERNELL WHITAKER**
   Norfolk, VA *41-2-1*
4. **IKE QUARTEY**
   Ghana *34-0-1*
5. **JOSE LUIS LOPEZ**
   Mexico *42-3-2*
6. **OBA CARR**
   Detroit, MI *46-2-1*
7. **VERNON FORREST**
   Atlanta, GA *25-0*
8. **WILFREDO RIVERA**
   Puerto Rico *28-3-1*
9. **JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ**
   Mexico *100-2-2*
10. **SHANNAN TAYLOR**
    Australia *21-0-1*

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 140 pounds

1. **VINCE PHILLIPS**
   Las Vegas, NV *39-3 (IBF Champ)*
2. **KHALID RAHILOU**
   France *32-2 (WBA Champ)*
3. **MIGUEL ANGEL GONZALEZ**
   Mexico *43-1-1*
4. **KOSTYA TSZYU**
   Australia *21-1-1*
5. **HECTOR LOPEZ**
   Palmdale, CA *39-6-1*
6. **REGGIE GREEN**
   Clinton, MD *28-2*
7. **BOLILLO GONZALEZ**
   Mexico *48-3-1*
8. **DIOBELYS HURTADO**
   Miami, FL *26-1*
9. **ZAB JUDAH**
   Brooklyn, NY *17-0*
10. **SHARMBA MITCHELL**
    Takoma Park, MD *42-2*

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 135 pounds

1. **SHANE MOSLEY**
   Pomona, CA *28-0 (IBF Champ)*
2. **JEAN-BAPTISTE MENDY**
   France *51-7-2 (WBA Champ)*
3. **CESAR BAZAN**
   Mexico *33-2-1 (WBC Champ)*
4. **STEVE JOHNSTON**
   Denver, CO *24-1*
5. **ORZUBEK NAZAROV**
   Japan *26-1*
6. **PHILLIP HOLIDAY**
   South Africa *32-1*
7. **ISRAEL CARDONA**
   Hartford, CT *29-2*
8. **IVAN ROBINSON**
   Philadelphia, PA *26-2*
9. **ARTURO GATTI**
   Jersey City, NJ *29-3*
10. **JAMES LEIJA**
    San Antonio, TX *36-3-2*

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 130 pounds

1. **GENARO HERNANDEZ**
   Los Angeles, CA *38-1-1 (WBC Champ)*
2. **ANGEL MANFREDY**
   Gary, IN *24-2-1*
3. **TAKANORI HATAKEYAMA**
   Japan *22-0-1 (WBA Champ)*
4. **YONG SOO CHOI**
   South Korea *24-3-1*
5. **ROBERT GARCIA**
   Oxnard, CA *30-0 (IBF Champ)*
6. **JESUS CHAVEZ**
   Austin, TX *24-1*
7. **GOYO VARGAS**
   Mexico *37-6-1*
8. **ANATOLY ALEXANDROV**
   Kazakhstan *33-3*
9. **JULIEN LORCY**
   France *38-1-2*
10. **ARNULFO CASTILLO**
    Mexico *27-0-2*

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 126 pounds

1. **NASEEM HAMED**
   England *30-0*
2. **LUISITO ESPINOSA**
   Philippines *43-7 (WBC Champ)*
3. **FRED NORWOOD**
   St. Louis, MO *31-0-1 (WBA Champ)*
4. **DERRICK GAINER**
   Pensacola, FL *25-4*
5. **MANUEL MEDINA**
   Mexico *55-10 (IBF Champ)*
6. **JUAN MANUEL MARQUEZ**
   Mexico *26-1*
7. **ANGEL VAZQUEZ**
   Hartford, CT *15-0*
8. **CESAR SOTO**
   Mexico *52-7-2*
9. **WILFREDO VAZQUEZ**
   Puerto Rico *50-8-3*
10. **HECTOR LIZARRAGA**
    Fresno, CA *34-9-5*

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 122 pounds

1. **VUYANI BUNGU**
   South Africa *35-2 (IBF Champ)*
2. **ERIK MORALES**
   Mexico *31-0 (WBC Champ)*
3. **KENNEDY McKINNEY**
   Memphis, TN *33-3-1*
4. **MARCO ANTONIO BARRERA**
   Mexico *45-2*
5. **WAYNE McCULLOUGH**
   Las Vegas, NV *22-1*
6. **ENRIQUE SANCHEZ**
   Mexico *24-0-1 (WBA Champ)*
7. **MBULELO BOTILE**
   South Africa *23-1*
8. **JUNIOR JONES**
   Brooklyn, NY *44-4*
9. **RAFAEL DEL VALLE**
   Puerto Rico *23-2-1*
10. **HECTOR ACERO-SANCHEZ**
    Brooklyn, NY *38-5-3*

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 118 pounds

1. **TIM AUSTIN**
   Cincinnati, OH *18-0-1 (IBF Champ)*
2. **NANA KONADU**
   Ghana *39-3 (WBA Champ)*
3. **JOICHIRO TATSUYOSHI**
   Japan *17-4-1 (WBC Champ)*
4. **JORGE ELIECER JULIO**
   Colombia *39-1*
5. **SIRIMONGKOL SINGMANASSUK**
   Thailand *16-1*
6. **PAULIE AYALA**
   Ft. Worth, TX *24-1*
7. **VEERAPHOL SAHAPROM**
   Thailand *15-1*
8. **DAORUNG C. SIRIWAT**
   Thailand *61-6-3*
9. **ADAN VARGAS**
   Mexico *28-1-1*
10. **DARIO AZUAGA**
    Paraguay *42-0-1*

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 115 pounds

1. **JOHNNY TAPIA**
   Albuquerque, NM *44-0-2 (IBF Champ)*
2. **IN JOO CHO**
   South Korea *13-0 (WBC Champ)*
3. **SATOSHI IIDA**
   Japan *25-1-1 (WBA Champ)*
4. **GERRY PENALOSA**
   Philippines *39-1-2*
5. **YOKTHAI SITHOAR**
   Thailand *14-1-1*
6. **HAROLD GREY**
   Colombia *22-2*
7. **LUIS BOLANO**
   Colombia *23-0*
8. **RATANACHAI DUTCHBOY GYM**
   Thailand *25-3*
9. **JULIO GAMBOA**
   Nicaragua *21-3*
10. **JOEL LUNA ZARATE**
    Mexico *32-2-2*

FLYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 112 pounds

1. **MARK JOHNSON**
   Washington, D.C. *36-1 (IBF Champ)*
2. **CHATCHAI DUTCHBOY GYM**
   Thailand *33-1 (WBC Champ)*
3. **HUGO SOTO**
   Argentina *50-5-2 (WBA Champ)*
4. **JOSE BONILLA**
   Venezuela *24-4*
5. **SAEN SOR PLOENCHIT**
   Thailand *29-1*
6. **ALEJANDRO MONTIEL**
   Mexico *37-3*
7. **RUBEN SANCHEZ-LEON**
   Mexico *22-7-1*
8. **DAVID GUERAULT**
   France *12-0*
9. **CHOKVIWAT CHOKCHAI**
   Thailand *30-3*
10. **JESPER JENSEN**
    Denmark *28-1*

JR. FLYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 108 pounds

1. **SAMAN SORJATURONG**
   Thailand *38-2-1 (WBC Champ)*
2. **PHICHITNOI C. SIRIWAT**
   Thailand *19-1 (WBA Champ)*
3. **MAURICIO PASTRANA**
   Colombia *19-0*
4. **BABY JAKE MATLALA**
   South Africa *49-10-2*
5. **JUAN CORDOBA**
   Argentina *32-4-3*
6. **MELCHOR COB CASTRO**
   Mexico *52-5-4*
7. **JOMA GAMBOA**
   Philippines *24-3-1*
8. **MICHAEL CARBAJAL**
   Phoenix, AZ *45-4*
9. **OSVALDO GUERRERO**
   Mexico *24-3*
10. **YEOSAM CHOI**
    South Korea *18-1*

POUND-FOR-POUND

1. **OSCAR DE LA HOYA**
   Welterweight
2. **ROY JONES**
   Light Heavyweight
3. **EVANDER HOLYFIELD**
   Heavyweight
4. **FELIX TRINIDAD**
   Welterweight
5. **MARK JOHNSON**
   Flyweight
6. **PERNELL WHITAKER**
   Welterweight
7. **NASEEM HAMED**
   Featherweight
8. **JOHNNY TAPIA**
   Junior Bantamweight
9. **RICARDO LOPEZ**
   Strawweight
10. **BERNARD HOPKINS**
    Middleweight

RYAN OUT LOUD

By Jeff Ryan

THE BEAT GOES ON

Traffic was backed up for three miles on the Major Deegan Expressway, so my decision to take the D train to Yankee Stadium was looking smarter by the minute. The card wasn't scheduled to start until 7:30, but the press gate would be opening three hours earlier. And being fashionably late was something best left to the glitteratti, who wouldn't know a deadline if it bit them in the liposuctioned butt and who've never felt intense pressure to file anything on time but their nails.

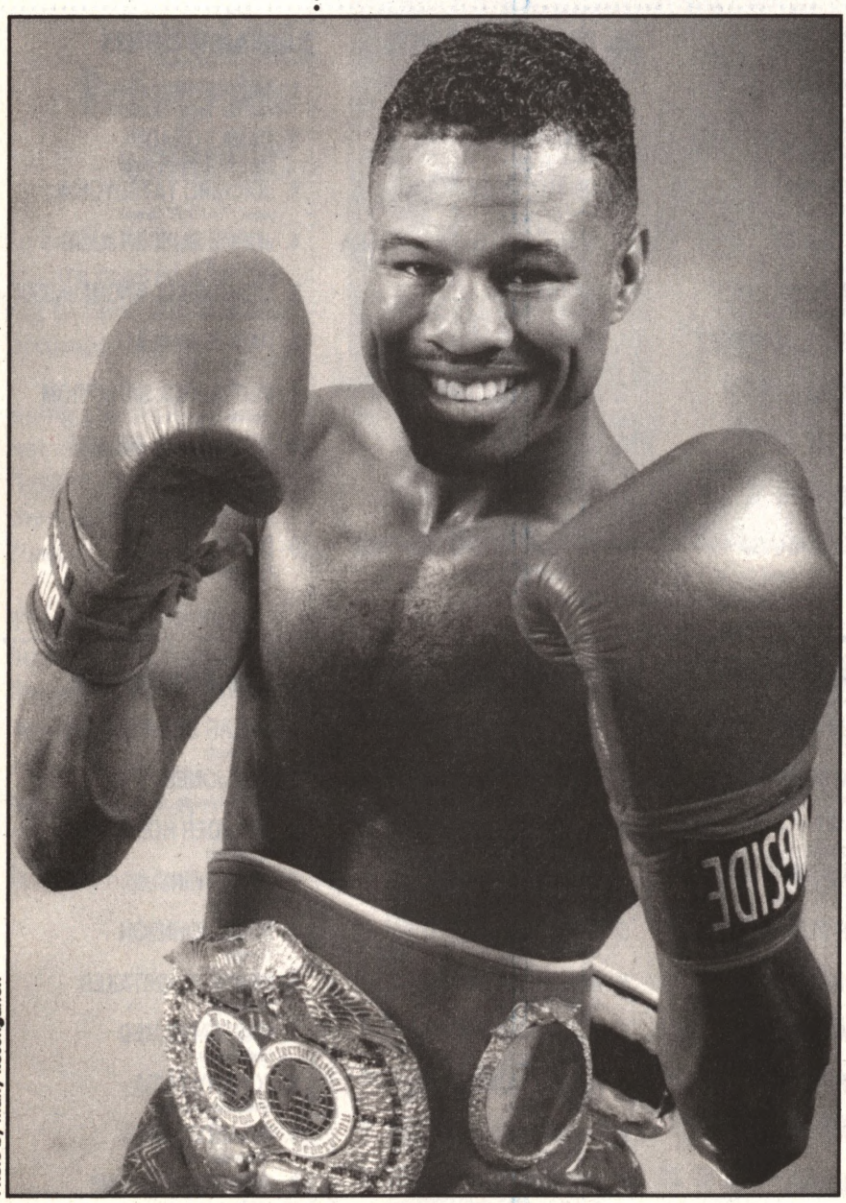

Photo by Marty Rosengarten

Mosley has plenty to smile about on Ryan's fantasy card

October 17, 1998. The fight posters and TV commercials had burned the date into everybody's brain. For me, though, it had particular significance because it marked exactly 15 years of my covering the fight game. *Fifteen years*. That should have been enough to make me tuck my keyboard under my arm and embark on a broken-field run toward a new career in restaurant reviewing. Ah, but the Sweet Science was still capable of delivering an evening like this every so often, just to keep me and my boxing beat brethren from becoming too jaded.

For the autumn of '98 you sure couldn't do much better than Evander Holyfield vs. Lennox Lewis in "The House That Ruth Built," with a crowd of about 57,000. Then throw in an undercard of four absolute gems, each capable of headlining a show by itself. With no belts at stake, of course, since the TV networks, the major newspapers, and THE RING agreed to stop recognizing the alphabets three weeks earlier. As Howard Cosell pointed out at the top of the ABC telecast, there wouldn't be a single title bout on the card, and not a single ticket-buyer asked for a refund.

What a night. It got off to a shaky start for me, though. About 10 minutes after Johnny Tapia decisioned Mark Johnson, someone tapped me on the shoulder. Turned around, and there was Rocky Marciano, bitching about my profile of him in THE RING. He said my description

of the plane crash that nearly killed him in '67 gave him chills, but he didn't appreciate my one-liners about how incredibly cheap he is. Fortunately, before "The Rock" got too steamed up, he was summoned to the ring for the celebrity introductions. Suffice to say, my future stories on him won't make any mention of his toupee.

Leave it to Muhammad Ali to command the loudest ovation of the night. Some things never change. Three months short of his 57th birthday, there he was, doing his trademark shuffle, throwing combinations in the air, screaming at Cosell, and doing the old restrain-me-before-I-tear-the-guy-apart routine when Joe Frazier climbed through the ropes. The smiling Frazier played along perfectly. He faked a left hook, then threw his arms around his old rival, and kissed him on the cheek. They walked back to their seats together, talking and laughing like two old army buddies.

Louis and Robinson will always be immortal in the minds of boxing fans

Shane Mosley-Angel Manfredy was great while it lasted, which was about two minutes into the third round, when a bloody Sugar flattened his tormentor for the 10-count with a whistling left hook. The same punch yours truly was tempted to throw when Jimmy Cannon kept looking over my shoulder in the press section, trying to steal the lead to my story.

It's a good thing the George Foreman/Larry Holmes/Roberto Duran joint retirement ceremony lasted only a few minutes because the old ballpark was humming in anticipation of the Oscar De La Hoya-Felix Trinidad showdown. And with good reason. After hitting the deck in the first and fifth rounds, and losing a 10-8 round when he was staggered in the ninth, it became pretty clear that "The Golden Boy" was going to need a kayo to win. Though terribly fatigued and seemingly out of answers, De La Hoya somehow summoned a barrage of punches that rendered Trinidad helpless along the ropes in the 12th.

After Ricardo Lopez eked out a rematch split decision over Rosendo Alvarez, a verdict that sent cups of Ballantine beer sailing into the ring, Jimmy Lennon Sr. announced it was time for the main event. For four rounds, not much happened, then, in the fifth, the heavyweight humdinger began living up to its hype. It seemed that just a few seconds after Cosell was screaming into the ABC microphone, "Down goes Holyfield!, Down goes Holyfield!," Don Dunphy was shouting to the radio audience, "But now he's rallying, and *Lewis* is hurt!"

The momentum shifted repeatedly over the next 10 rounds, with Holyfield, surprisingly, outboxing the bigger man, and Lewis displaying more courage and tenacity in the trenches than he ever had before. Rounds 13, 14, and 15 will no doubt be remembered as nine of the greatest minutes in history, and the defining moments in the career of "The Real Deal," whose 14th-round knockdown of the Briton secured a close unanimous decision.

After the mushroom cloud had lifted, and my column was finished, it was time to head back to the subway—but not before a quick stop in one of those shabby bars across the street from the Stadium. You can imagine the place: full of noise, cigar smoke, and more Yankees memorabilia than you can shake a Louisville Slugger at. Tonight, though, it was packed with a fight crowd. At the far end of the bar were Benny Paret and Kiko Bejines, talking in Spanish. Gerald McClellan came over to say hello, bought me a beer, and told me he had just signed to fight Bernard Hopkins next summer in Las Vegas. There was a lot of laughing and hollering, interrupted only when a rumor started to spread that Sonny Liston and a cop had just gotten into it in the V.I.P. parking lot. It turned out to be false.

Shortly after 1 a.m., when all the goodbyes were said and the hands were shaken, it really *was* time to go home. Outside at the curb sat a huge limousine. Not mine, thank you, but Joe Louis'. The window was down, so I walked over and greeted "The Brown Bomber." His health hasn't been too good for years, but he remains sharp and in good spirits. I asked him where he was headed, and he said down to a party at Jack Dempsey's restaurant in Midtown. When he was reminded that he still hadn't sat down for that Q & A he promised me, he said to call his secretary the following afternoon and make arrangements. And if that didn't work out?

He gave me his word that we'd get it done for sure in May, at Sugar Ray Robinson's 78th birthday party. ■

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A WAR WORTHY OF AN ENCORE:

WHY GATTI & ROBINSON HAVE TO DO IT AGAIN!

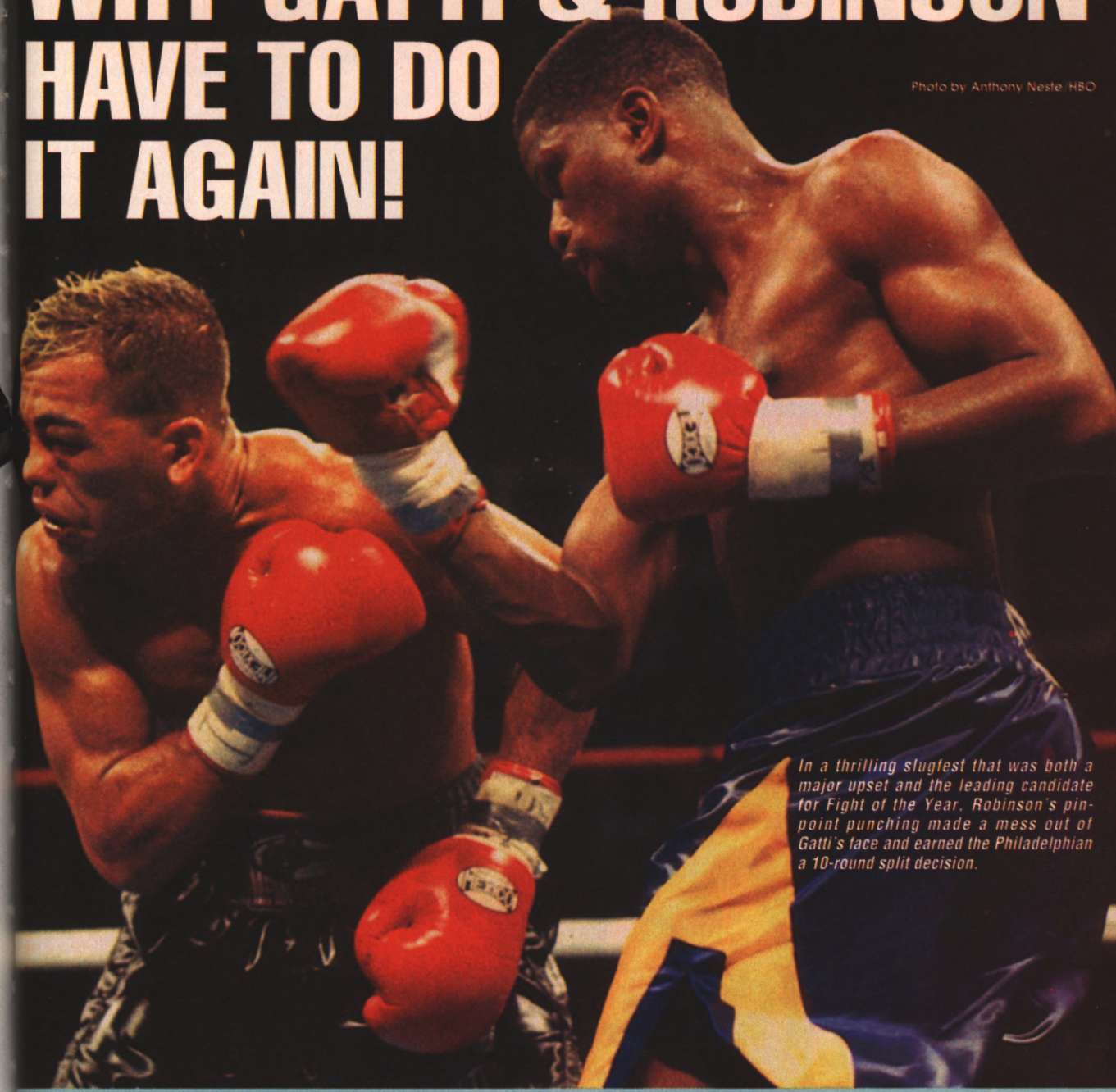

Photo by Anthony Neste/HBO

In a thrilling slugfest that was both a major upset and the leading candidate for Fight of the Year, Robinson's pinpoint punching made a mess out of Gatti's face and earned the Philadelphian a 10-round split decision.

By Nigel Collins

You gotta love Arturo Gatti. Boxing had been suffering through one of its bleakest years in a long while, a year mired in mediocrity and bereft of anything resembling a great fight. Then along came Gatti, back from an eight-month layoff, and suddenly, *voila*, instant classic. Of course, it takes two to make a great fight, and Gatti's willing partner in mayhem was "Mighty" Ivan Robinson, who eventually stole his "Thunder" by winning a 10-round split decision. But what occurred during those 10 magnificent rounds had been so electrifying, so unlike anything that had preceded it in 1998, when it was over, all anybody could talk about was doing it again.

And despite his second loss in a row, Gatti's status as the most exciting fighter in the world remains unchallenged, a distinction that will keep him in big-money bouts and a vital part of HBO's boxing

Photo by Frank Vitucci

Blending savvy boxing and two-fisted aggression, underdog Robinson took the fight to Gatti from the first bell. As is his wont, Gatti took the blows and kept coming, gunning for a knockout.

programing as long as he's physically able to perform at such a breathtaking level.

"Arturo Gatti is a human highlight film," gushed HBO Sports Vice President Lou DiBella. "He is not a normal human being; he's a Bizarro."

And Ivan Robinson?

"You saw the real Ivan Robinson tonight," said the 27-year-old Philadelphian following the finest performance of his career. "I didn't count on getting up off the canvas, but that's the nature of the game. After I lost to Israel Cardona, Lou Duva said that I should stop fighting. Nah, I've got too much heart for that. I'm like Gatti."

Yes he is, but only in the heart department. Both as a man and as a fighter, Robinson is the complete antithesis of Gatti, who seems to live life almost as recklessly as he fights. It was during the lengthy hiatus prior to the Robinson fight that Gatti acquired a new scar to add to his collection of war wounds. But this one wasn't anywhere near his handsome face, where he'd been gashed so many times before. It was on his back, where a knife blade had carved a vivid line into his flesh. Gatti didn't really want to go into details, but he did demonstrate how he'd bent at the waist and ducked down and away—something he rarely does in the boxing ring—so that the blade aimed for his face had slashed his back instead.

"I came back with the left hook. I just hit him once and walked away," said Gatti of what had started as a dispute over a woman and escalated into an ugly incident.

With Gatti, one punch is frequently all it takes, unless, of course, the other guy is wearing a badge and toting a handgun, as was the case when Gatti got into a beef with cops in Union City, New Jersey, last year. Originally, the fighter had been charged with eluding the police, resisting arrest, making terroristic threats, and aggravated assault. But the charges were reduced to a disorderly person offense, resulting in a fine and community service.

"Things got a little crazy for a while," admitted Pat Lynch, Gatti's manager. "But you've been with Arturo, you know what he's like. He's not a bad guy."

Photo by Frank Vitucci

Crunch! Gatti's right fist meets Robinson's nose during the bristling action that had fans at the Boardwalk Convention Hall Ballroom on their feet throughout much of the see-saw brawl.

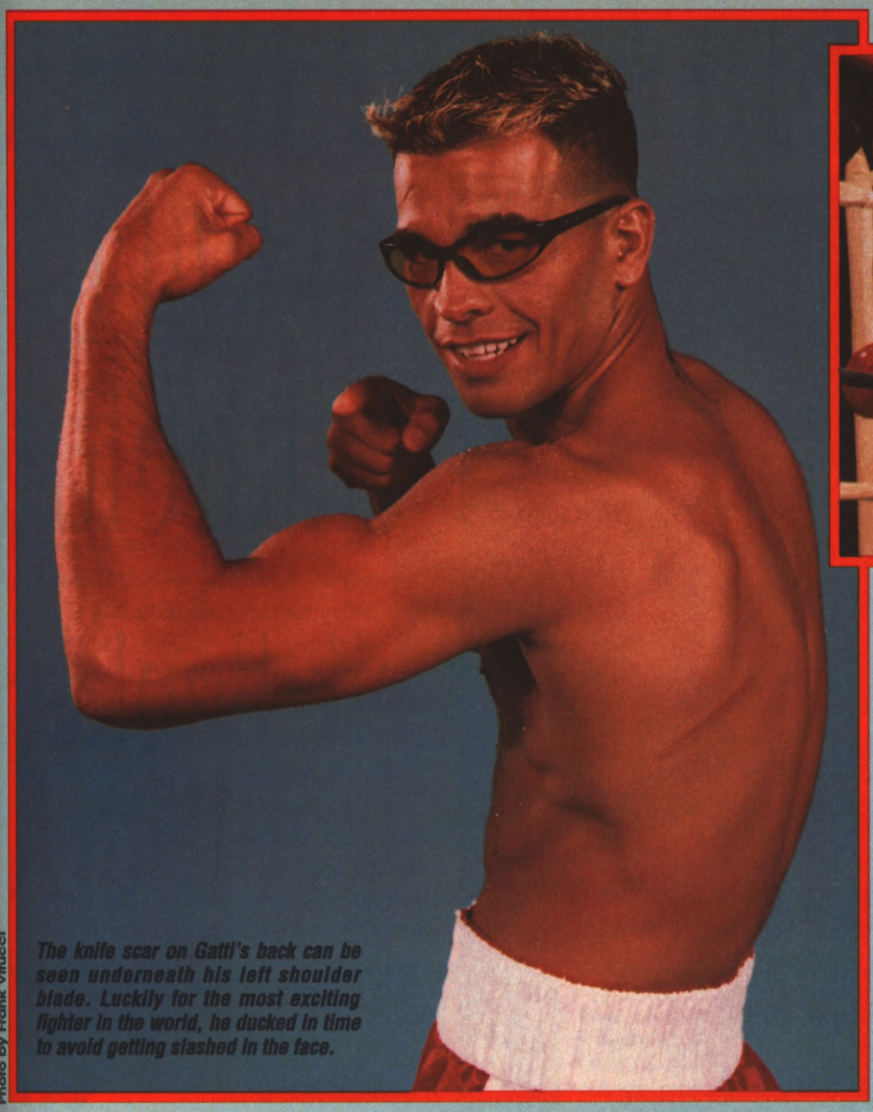

Photo by Frank Vitucci

The knife scar on Gatti's back can be seen underneath his left shoulder blade. Luckily for the most exciting fighter in the world, he ducked in time to avoid getting slashed in the face.

Photo by Frank Vitucci

A right to the head put Robinson down in the fourth, but he regained his feet and was fighting back effectively before the round was over.

True, Gatti is not your typical bully or a common street thug. In fact, he's mild mannered, polite, and still worries about what his mother thinks. He'd gotten a tattoo (a pair of boxing gloves, dripping blood) since the last time he'd seen her, and was afraid she might disapprove.

"My mom hates tattoos because all the people she sees with them on TV are bad guys," the fighter told the *Atlantic City Press*. "As soon as she sees me, I'm expecting a smack in the head."

Like a lot of young men with time on their hands, Gatti's life outside the ring seems to be a series of haphazard occurrences. He claims he wouldn't have been in Miami, where he picked up the knife wound, if the cut he'd received losing to Angel Manfredy hadn't necessitated such a protracted layoff. Another lengthy stay, this time at his Virginia Beach training camp, culminated in a new blond-topped hairdo for the Robinson fight.

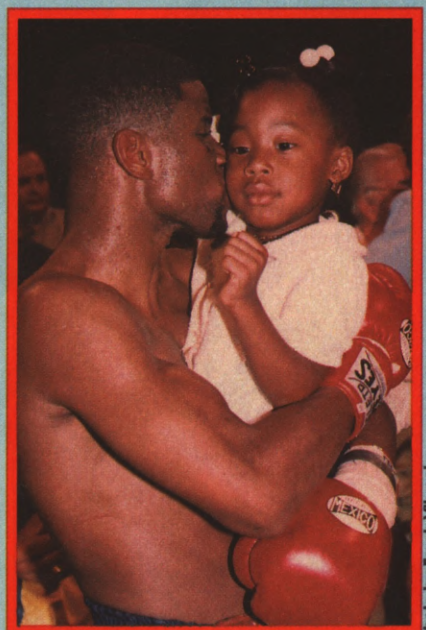

Photo by Frank Vitucci

Robinson gives his daughter, Tatiana, a kiss following the biggest win of Daddy's career.

"I went to get a haircut, and they said, 'Do you want some color?' So I said, 'Go ahead.' You know, camp gets boring at the end," he explained with a boyish grin and a shrug.

Robinson, on the other hand, lives a much more structured life. No fancy haircuts, no facing down knife-wielding assailants, and no high-speed car chases. When not in training, he lives a quiet life with his wife, Tanya, and their two children. He's known disappointment in his career, and was pretty much written off after suffering a crushing knockout defeat at the hands of Cardona in July '97. But Robinson never gave up on himself. He knew that he "wasn't in any condition to compete" against the hard-hooking New Englander, having shed 20 pounds in an abbreviated, four-week training camp. For Gatti, Robinson did everything right, sequestering himself for eight weeks, only communicating with his wife and children via daily letters delivered by his manager, Eddie Woods. By the time he got to Atlantic City, Robinson exuded the quiet confidence of a man who knew he was as ready as he possibly could be for the fight of his life.

"I know Arturo Gatti is coming to fight. I know he's a warrior. I know he's gonna give it his all," Robinson said at the final prefight press conference, turning his head to look directly at his opponent as he

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LIGHTWEIGHT CONTENDER

ISRAEL CARDONA

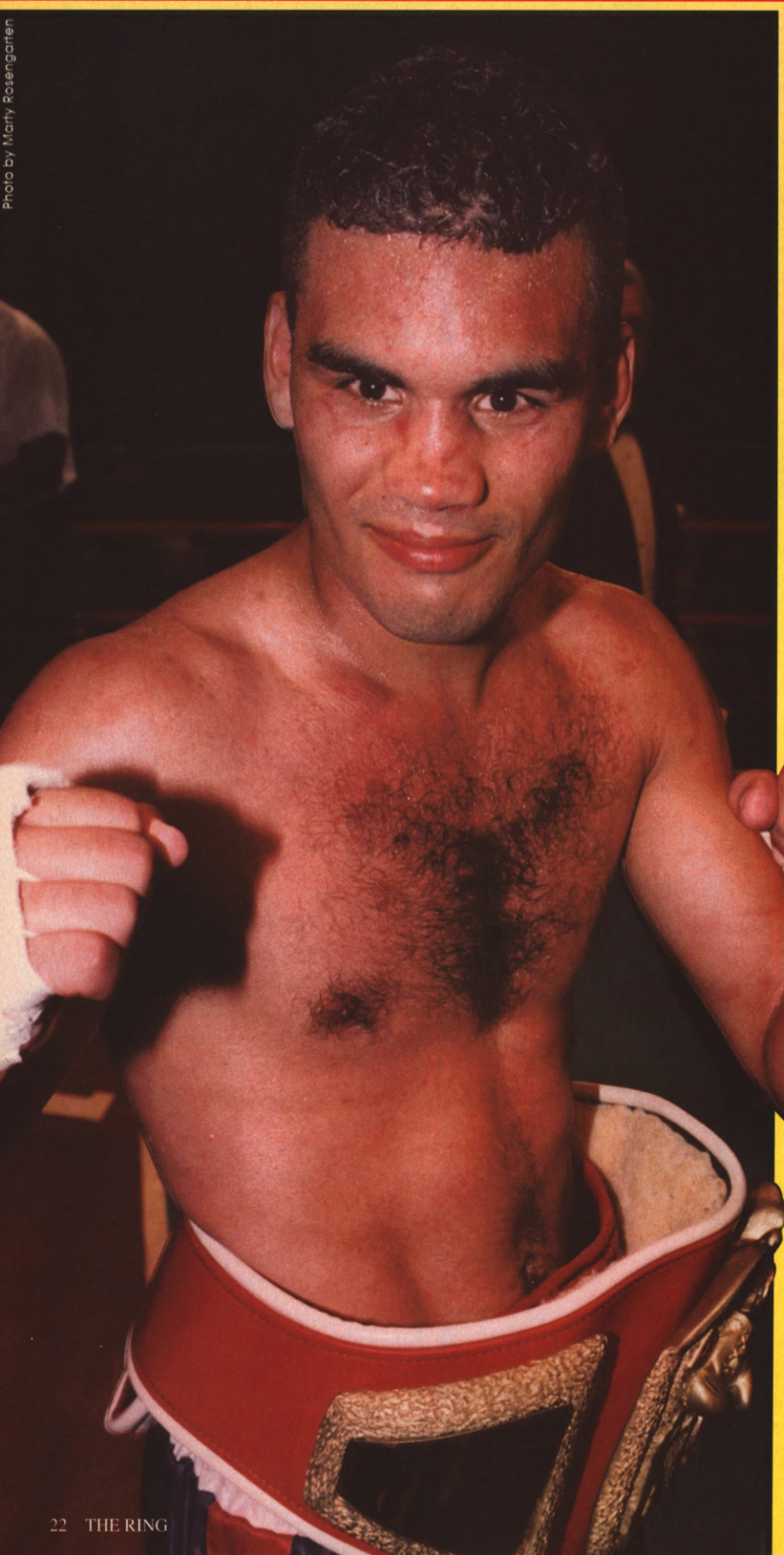


Photo by Marty Rosengarten

Left-Hooker With A Heart Of Gold

By Jay Miller

If you're the kind of boxing fan who's dismayed, disappointed, and frequently disgusted by the sport's miscreants, you're going to consider Israel "Pito" Cardona a welcome breath of fresh air.

If you're the kind of boxing fan who's turned off by top fighters reluctant to take serious challenges, hopelessly political ratings, and matches that dissolve into sorry farces, then a certain

Photo by Ray Bailey

Cardona poses with his pack of Cubs and Scouts inside the ring at Foxwoods Casino, where they serve as the color guard when he fights. The lightweight contender's dream is to one day have his own recreation center.

Hartford, Connecticut, lightweight just might get you excited again.

If you're the kind of boxing fan who wonders why boxing millionaires never seem happy with their huge paydays, and then turn around and squander most of their hard-earned loot in an absurd self-indulgent way, Cardona's long-range plans just might restore your faith in the sport's potential to generate good works.

If you've read too many stories about wayward kids who were saved by a local youth boxing program, hold on. This is a story about a kid who *is* the local youth boxing program.

Cardona's ring record is an impressive 29-2 (21), and it should earn him a world title shot before 1998 is over. But the way he's won over people on his way to the top is an even more amazing side of the boxer, who turns 24 on November 30. In the past, New Jersey-based promoter Frank Gelb has handled high-profile fighters such as Matthew Saad Muhammad and Jimmy Young, but the lack of discipline among most modern pugs has convinced him to avoid that end of the game. A couple meetings with Cardona, however, changed his mind, and brought Gelb back to managing fighters—or at least this one fighter.

"What stood out about Pito Cardona was not just his ability, but the kind of gentleman he is," Gelb said. "That is very uncharacteristic of most boxers. Pito is just a truly wonderful person. I promoted Pito's USBA title fight at Wildwood, New Jersey, against Ivan Robinson, and I got

(Continued on page 73)

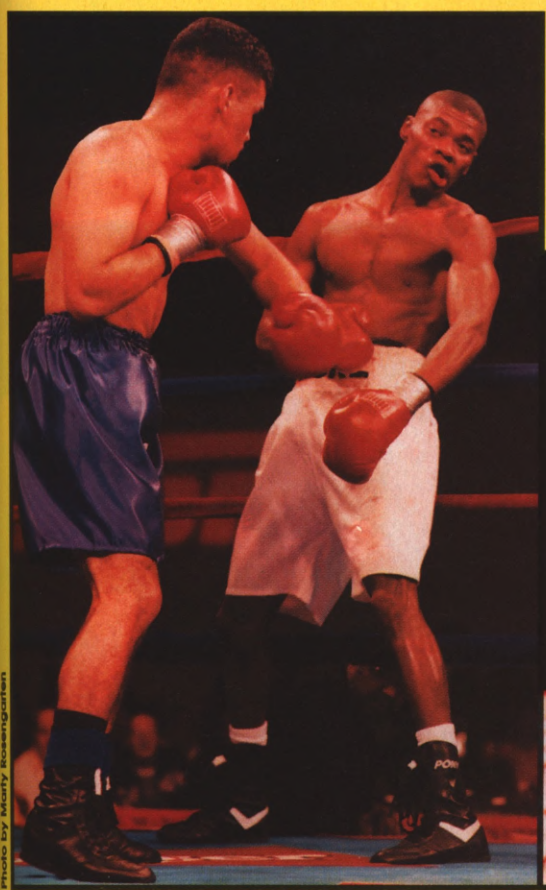


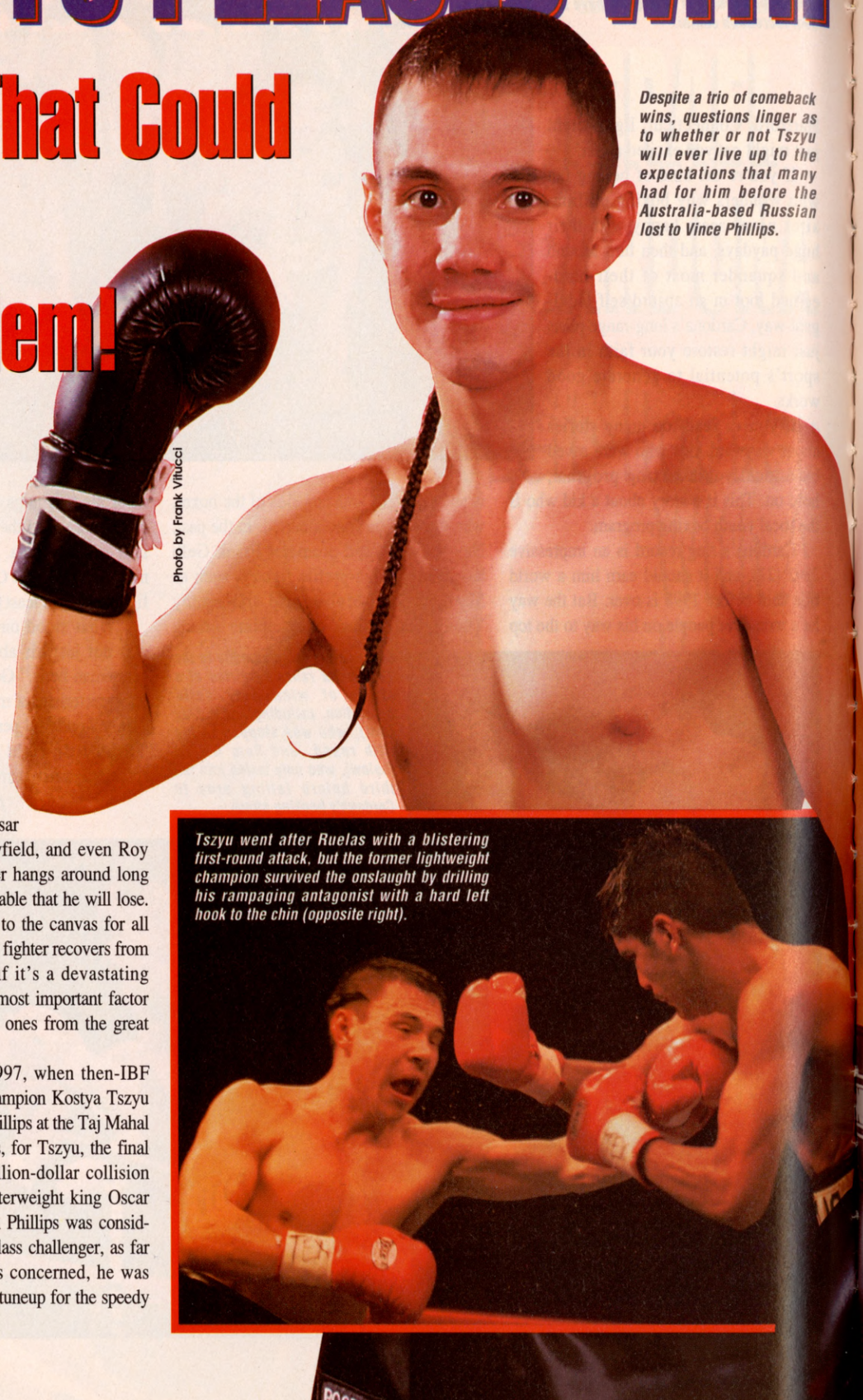
Photo by Marty Rosengarten

Photo by Ray Bailey

Cardona has risen steadily in the 135-pound ranks by virtue of a string of wins over solid opposition, including Andre Clay (left), who was stopped in the fifth round, and Sam Girard (below), who only lasted into the third before falling prey to Cardona's hooking attack.

TSZYU PLEASED WITH TKO OF RUELAS ...

And That Could Be A Problem!



Despite a trio of comeback wins, questions linger as to whether or not Tszyu will ever live up to the expectations that many had for him before the Australia-based Russian lost to Vince Phillips.

Photo by Frank Vitucci

By Matt Aguilar

Boxing is a game of inevitabilities. It is inevitable that a fighter will one day take a good rap on the chin. It happens to everybody. It happened to Muhammad Ali, Ray Leonard, and Tommy Hearns. It is also inevitable that a fighter will one day be hurt. Just ask Julio Cesar Chavez, Evander Holyfield, and even Roy Jones. And, if a fighter hangs around long enough, it is also inevitable that he will lose. Probably get pounded to the canvas for all the world to see. How a fighter recovers from that loss, especially if it's a devastating knockout, is the singlemost important factor in separating the good ones from the great ones.

It was May 31, 1997, when then-IBF junior welterweight champion Kostya Tszyu met underdog Vince Phillips at the Taj Mahal in Atlantic City. It was, for Tszyu, the final obstacle to a multimillion-dollar collision course with WBC welterweight king Oscar De La Hoya. Although Phillips was considered a capable world-class challenger, as far as the big picture was concerned, he was regarded as basically a tuneup for the speedy and powerful Tszyu.

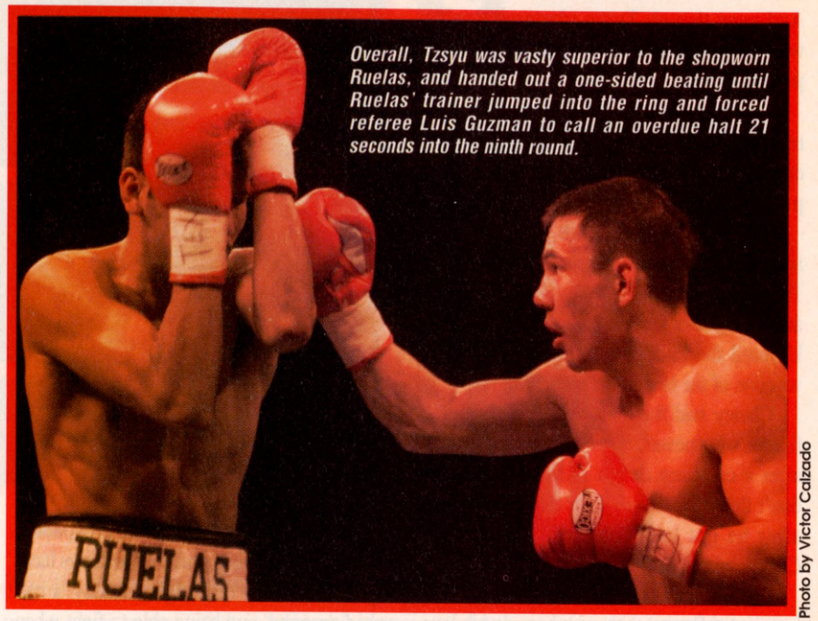
Tszyu went after Ruelas with a blistering first-round attack, but the former lightweight champion survived the onslaught by drilling his rampaging antagonist with a hard left hook to the chin (opposite right).

Photos by Victor Calzado

In what at the time was considered a huge upset, however, Phillips stopped Tszyu in the 10th round. The shock Tszyu and the boxing world felt cannot be underestimated. To lose is bad enough, but to lose unexpectedly and in such a definitive manner is even worse. The De La Hoya fight, not to mention a large chunk of Tszyu's confidence, suddenly were gone.

"In the beginning of my career, I never thought I would lose," said Tszyu in a soft, charming accent that combines the rhythms of both his native Russia and his adopted home of Australia. "Then, it happened. It wasn't easy. I never thought about retiring, but at the same time, I didn't know how long it would take for me to recover. It was about two months later that I went back to the gym."

Fast-forward to August 15, 1998, in the El Paso County Coliseum. Fighting in front of 6,731 fans for the right to meet Miguel Angel Gonzalez in a late-October showdown for the vacant WBC super lightweight title, Tszyu stopped former IBF lightweight champ Rafael Ruelas 21 seconds into the ninth round. Tszyu passed the first true post-Phillips test, but he left many people wondering if he's totally recovered from the Phillips disaster.



Overall, Tszyu was vasty superior to the shopworn Ruelas, and handed out a one-sided beating until Ruelas' trainer jumped into the ring and forced referee Luis Guzman to call an overdue halt 21 seconds into the ninth round.

Photo by Victor Calzado

Not that Tszyu didn't shine at times against Ruelas. He dominated from the opening bell, pounding his sadly outgunned opponent with a combination of blazing speed and thunderous power that echoed off the walls of the El Paso County Coliseum. In the end, Ruelas, 52-4 (42), was saved from further punishment by trainer Joe Goossen, who frantically climbed into the ring to stop the fight after a brutal combination had jarred Ruelas' head back for the umpteenth time. Going into the ninth, Tszyu was ahead by scores of 80-71 and 80-70 (twice).

"Now I know why Tszyu has so many first-round knockouts," said Gonzalez, the former WBC lightweight champ, who was at ringside. "He's strong and didn't give Ruelas a chance. He obviously surprised Ruelas in the first round. He took too much punishment in the fight. It's a pity. It was difficult to watch."

Whether or not Tszyu has regained the confidence needed to go along with his obvious skills cannot be determined at this point, but for one night at least, he was ecstatic about the way he fought.

"I am proud of my performance because I fought a completely different fight than I usually do," said Tszyu. "This time I threw many, many more jabs than I have ever done. I hurt him a few times with just one jab. That's why I'm so happy."

Still, for a fighter who was once thought to be destined for greatness, Tszyu's performance came up a bit short of some people's

expectations. He was so obviously the superior fighter and gave Ruelas such a nasty beating early in the fight, you had to wonder why he couldn't end it before he did. After all, Ruelas lasted less than six minutes with De La Hoya, and that was three years ago when Ruelas was a much fresher fighter. And even though Tszyu plastered Ruelas with every punch in his arsenal, he couldn't put him down.

Legendary trainer Gil Clancy, who currently works with De La Hoya in an advisory capacity, said some fighters never recover psychologically from an unexpected loss.

"They find out they are not invincible anymore," Clancy said. "Even if a guy is a 5-1 favorite, he fights that guy a second time, and he tightens up and isn't sure of himself. Up until the Phillips fight, I thought Tszyu was one of the best in the world."

Clancy said the most vivid example of a fighter who never recovered his former self after a crushing defeat is Mike Tyson. "I don't think Tyson was ever the same fighter after he got knocked out by Douglas," Clancy said.

Physically, Tszyu can still dominate. He hammered Ruelas with speed, made his legs dance after delivering power shots, and did it all in combination. But when Ruelas, in danger of being swarmed under, uncorked a desperation left hook near the end of round one, Tszyu lurched slightly, grinned, and backed off. True, Tszyu was aggressive the rest of the way, but not as aggressive as he had been before Ruelas landed that big left.

"I thought I had him knocked out in the first round," said Tszyu. "But he had so much heart, he just kept fighting me. He gave me a great fight. I have so much respect for him. I just want to thank him for a great fight."

Ruelas' heart definitely was a factor. Knowing this was his last big chance, he kept going despite the pounding he was absorbing. Still, despite entering the match on a nine-bout winning streak versus second- and third-rate opposition, he's years past his prime and hasn't looked impressive since early-'95. Critics looking for Tszyu to blow out Ruelas in the same manner De La Hoya did three years ago went home disappointed.

Hall of Fame trainer Eddie Futch said he was very impressed with Tszyu early in his career, but he's seen cases where greatness slips away from a fighter for various reasons.

"Back when I first saw him," Futch said, "I thought Tszyu was a great prospect. I thought he was doing some of the things lacking in some of the other fighters today: a balanced program, and being able to fight when necessary. But when a fighter approaches greatness, it is important that he remember what has brought them to that point. Remember the case of Riddick Bowe. Tszyu has to keep working on the things that made him a good fighter, to the point where he becomes so good that he can do it in his sleep. You have to keep doing the good things until they become automatic. That's when a good fighter becomes a great fighter."

Tyzsu's troubles began when "Cool" Vince Phillips unexpectedly stopped him to win the IBF junior lightweight title in May 1997. The crushing defeat hurt both Tszyu's status and confidence.

One of the bad habits Tszyu, 21-1-1 (17), has yet to break is carrying his left hand too low, a mistake that made him an easy target for Phillips' right. Against Ruelas, his left was still precariously low for much of the match, but Ruelas is a hooker and seldom fires his right hand straight down the pipe.

Fortunately for the 28-year-old Tszyu, there's still time to do what Joe Louis did in his second fight with Max Schmeling, what Muhammad Ali did in his second and third fights with Joe Frazier: bounce back from tough defeats with historic performances. Certainly, Tszyu's training program is new and improved. His manager, Vlad Warton, blamed the Phillips loss on amino acids. He said Tszyu was suffering from anemia, had a loss of strength, and was dehydrated. According to Warton, since he stopped taking amino acids, he has felt stronger.

Team Tszyu has also hired one of the top dietitians in Australia, and very rarely does the fighter's braintrust allow him to stray too far from his strict dietary regime. In El Paso, not only did Warton and the rest of the camp not allow Tszyu to drink the water, but they brought in a personal chef as well. And for reasons only known to themselves, they did not allow the media to watch Tszyu work out at length.

His upcoming bout with Gonzalez should tell us a lot more about Tszyu's long-range prospects than the Ruelas fight did. Although Gonzalez, 43-1-1 (33), hasn't looked particularly overwhelming since his points loss to De La Hoya in January '97, he has a lot more fight left in him than Ruelas. True, Gonzalez had to settle for a 12-round draw with Julio Cesar Chavez in his only major bout since failing in a bid to win the WBC super lightweight belt from "The Golden Boy," but most impartial observers thought he'd done enough to win.

The guess here is that Tszyu has enough skills and punch, and will have regained enough of his pre-Phillips form, to get past Gonzalez in a close, competitive fight. But beyond that, a hall-of-fame future is far from inevitable. ■

Matt Aguilar is a reporter for the El Paso Times.

THE 50 GREATEST HEAVYWEIGHTS OF ALL-TIME

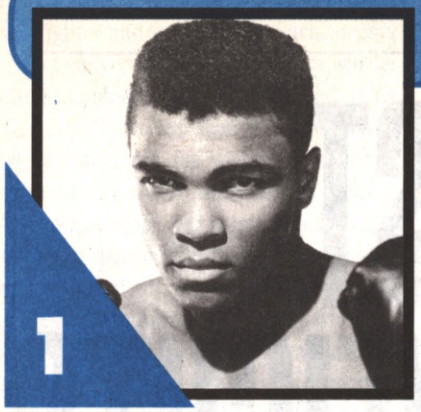
The daunting task of compiling a list of the 50 greatest heavyweights of all-time is made even more challenging by the fact that it is extremely difficult, and to a degree unfair, to compare fighters from vastly different eras. Be that as it may, the editors of THE RING, with counsel from a number of noted boxing historians, have boldly gone where no editors in the magazine's 76-year history have dared to go before—and put together such a list.

Not all heavyweight champions were great fighters, and not all great heavyweights became world champions; therefore, this list includes 14 men who never held boxing's greatest prize. Also, while it is impossible to judge a fighter's ultimate place in history until his career is over, we have included a number of active heavyweights, simply because it would be ludicrous not to include such superstars as George Foreman, Larry Holmes, and Evander Holyfield. In fact, the only restriction was that all of the fighters under consideration fought in the gloved era. True, John L. Sullivan, the last bare knuckle champion, is included, but that's because his career spanned both the bare knuckle and gloved epochs.

Much, though certainly not all, of the reckoning involved the arena of the mind, where great fighters, past and present, compete with each other as if all were in their prime at the same time. Would Ali's lateral movement befuddle Louis? Could Marciano have outslugged Frazier? Was Liston a bigger bully than Tyson? But when calculating where each fighter belongs among our Fab 50, it was also important to come to some sort of understanding of what is meant, in this particular instance, by "great." While a fighter's fistic accomplishments have to be the foremost factor, how he affected the well-being of the sport also has to be considered. Fighters such as Sullivan, Jack Dempsey, Joe Louis, and Muhammad Ali were great personalities as well as great fighters, and presided over four of boxing's golden ages, lifting the game to unprecedented periods of popularity and prosperity.

One final caveat before getting to the list: Human nature is such that most people tend to believe that fighters from their own salad days were the best of all-time. It's the same thing with baseball players, movie stars, and pop singers. Therefore, as none of the editors or experts involved in putting together this section were born before World War II, it should come as no great surprise that the rankings, to a large degree, favor modern-day fighters. But that being said, it should also be noted that 10 of the top 20 are fighters who won the title or reached their peaks prior to 1939. Overall, history has been served.

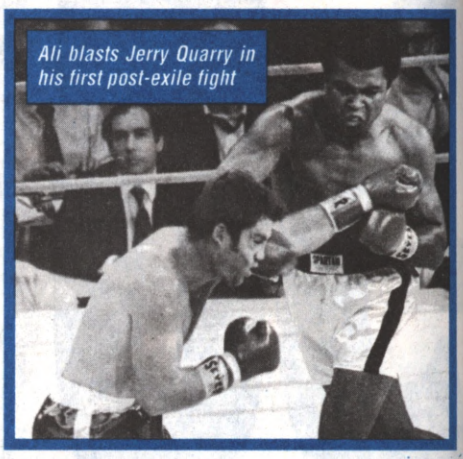
MUHAMMAD ALI



1

Years Fought: October 29, 1960-November 11, 1981
Record: 56-5 (37)

Career Capsule: Won light heavyweight gold at 1960 Olympics ... Upset Sonny Liston (KO 7) to win world title in '64 ... Made nine successful defenses before being stripped of the title for refusing to enter the U.S. military in '67 ... Regained title by beating George Foreman (KO 8) in '74 ... Lost title to Leon Spinks (L 15) in the 11th defense of second reign ... Became first to win heavy title three times by beating Spinks (W 15) in '78 ... Relinquished title in '79 ... Lost to Larry Holmes (KO by 11) in '80 in bid to win title for a fourth time ... Lost to Trevor Berbick (L 10) in final bout ... Other top fighters he beat: Joe Frazier, Floyd Patterson, Earnie Shavers, Ron Lyle, Ken Norton, Jerry Quarry, Zora Folley, Ernie Terrell, Cleveland Williams, Oscar Bonavena, Henry Cooper, George Chuvalo.



Ali blasts Jerry Quarry in his first post-exile fight

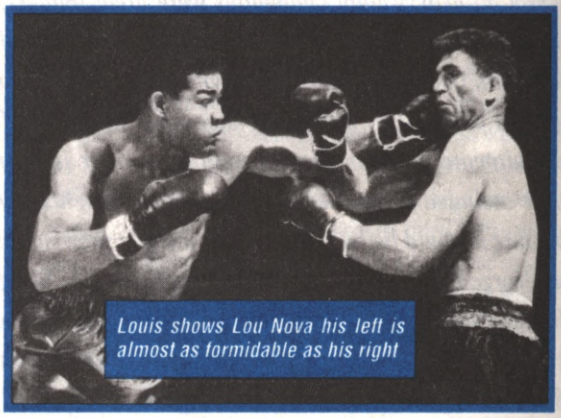
Why He's Rated Where He's Rated: Had the fastest hands and quickest feet in heavyweight history ... Practically impossible to hit with more than one punch at a time during the pre-exile years ... Displayed huge heart and granite chin in second half of career ... Brilliant tactician ... Master of psychological warfare ... Unorthodox fighting style, outspoken personality, and strength of character made him the most famous international celebrity of all-time and took boxing to a new level ... THE RING Fighter of the Year: 1963, '72, '74, '75, '78.

JOE LOUIS

2

Years Fought: July 4, 1934-October 26, 1951
Record: 68-3 (54)

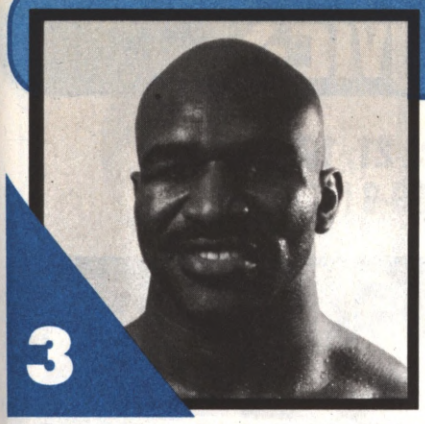
Career Capsule: Won 1934 National AAU light heavyweight title, and turned pro that year at the age of 20 ... Won first 27 pro fights before being beaten by Max Schmeling (KO by 12) in '36 ... Beat James J. Braddock (KO 8) to win world title in '37 ... Avenged loss to Schmeling with first-round knockout in '38 ... Scored dramatic come-from-behind knockout of Billy Conn (KO 13) in '41 ... Enlisted in the Army in '42 and was inactive for four years ... Won controversial decision over Jersey Joe Walcott (W 15) in '47, then stopped Walcott (KO 11) in rematch in '48, marking 25th title defense ... Retired as champ in '48, but made comeback in '50 that saw him lose to Ezzard Charles (L 15) in bid to regain title and again to Rocky Marciano (KO by 8) in final fight ... Other top fighters he beat: Primo Carnera, Tommy Farr, Jack Sharkey, Max Baer, John Henry Lewis, Arturo Godoy, Lou Nova, Lee Savold, Jimmy Bivins.



Louis shows Lou Nova his left is almost as formidable as his right

Why He's Rated Where He's Rated: Holds records for championship longevity that may never be broken, reigning uninterrupted for over 11 years and making 25 consecutive defenses ... One of the biggest punchers ever, able to score kayo with either hand at any given moment ... Skilled boxer with excellent jab ... Exceptional track record in rematches ... Competition was often second-rate, as many of his defenses came against members of the "Bum Of The Month Club" ... THE RING Fighter of the Year: 1936, '38, '39, '41.

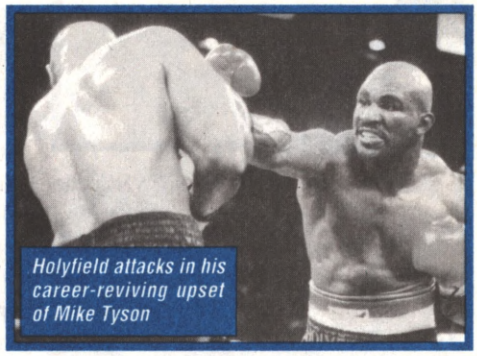
EVANDER HOLYFIELD



3

Years Fought: November 15, 1984-present
Record: 35-3 (25)

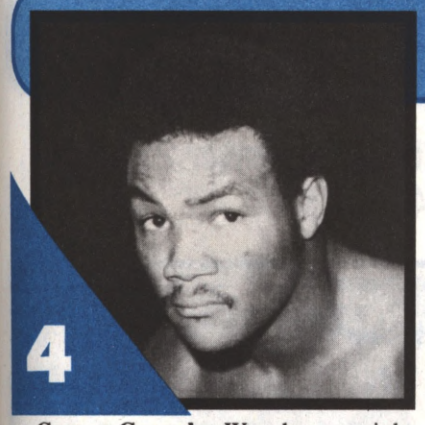
Career Capsule: Settled for light heavyweight bronze at 1984 Olympics after controversial DQ loss ... Beat Dwight Qawi (W 15) for WBA cruiserweight title in '86 in 12th pro fight ... Made five successful cruiser defenses, picking up IBF and WBC belts along the way ... Moved to heavyweight in '88, and won world title from Buster Douglas (KO 3) in '90 ... Lost title to Riddick Bowe (L 12) in fourth defense in '92 ... Regained WBA and IBF titles by beating Bowe (W 12) in bizarre "Fan Man" fight in '93 ... Lost titles to Michael Moorer (L 12) in first defense in '94 ... Believed to be washed-up, but shocked Mike Tyson (KO 11) for WBA title in '96 ... Made successful defense against Tyson (W Disq. 3) in '97 in infamous "bite fight" ... Regained IBF title by beating Moorer (KO 8) later that year ... Other top fighters he beat: Ossie Ocasio, Carlos DeLeon, Pinklon Thomas, Michael Dokes, George Foreman, Larry Holmes, Ray Mercer, Bobby Czyz.



Holyfield attacks in his career-reviving upset of Mike Tyson

Why He's Rated Where He's Rated: Only man besides Muhammad Ali to thrice win heavyweight title ... Proved doubters wrong time and again, especially overcoming age and supposed heart ailment to win career-defining first fight with Tyson ... Tremendous desire and great chin allowed him to win repeatedly as an underdog ... Excellent combination puncher ... Has had trouble with heavyweights far bigger than him ... THE RING Fighter of the Year: 1987, '96, '97.

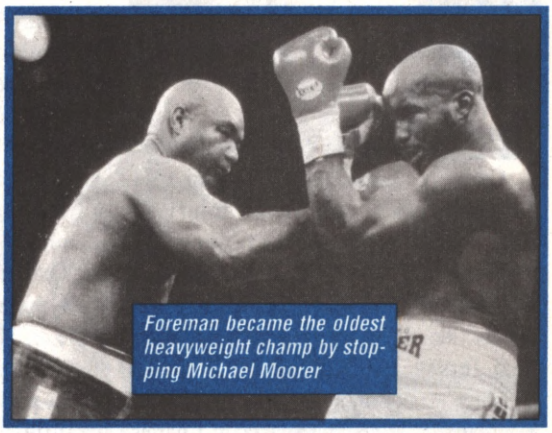
GEORGE FOREMAN



4

Years Fought: June 23, 1969-present
Record: 76-5 (68)

Career Capsule: Won heavyweight gold at 1968 Olympics ... Turned pro at 20, winning first 37 bouts, all but three by knockout ... Won first of two heavyweight titles, beating Joe Frazier (KO 2) in '73, flooring him six times ... Made two successful defenses, topping Joe Roman (KO 1) and Ken Norton (KO 2) ... Lost title to Muhammad Ali (KO by 8) in '74 in "Rumble In The Jungle" ... Retired in '77 after surprise loss to Jimmy Young (L 12) ... Began second phase of career in '87 with victory over Steve Zouski (KO 4) ... Lost bid to regain title against Evander Holyfield (L 12) in '91 ... Won second title in '94, beating WBA and IBF heavy champion Michael Moorer (KO 10), becoming oldest man (45) to win heavy title ... Vacated both titles in '95 ... Lost "linear" heavy title in '97 via controversial decision to Shannon Briggs (L 12) ... Scheduled to take on former champ Larry Holmes in '99 ... Other top fighters he beat: Ron Lyle, George Chuvalo, Chuck Wepner, Gregorio Peralta.



Foreman became the oldest heavyweight champ by stopping Michael Moorer

Why He's Rated Where He's Rated: Astonishing longevity ... Possessed frightening power in both fists ... Overpowered Hall of Famers Frazier and Norton ... Changed sullen image, and became hugely popular during second phase of career ... Encountered problems with mobile fighters like Ali and Young ... Lacked stamina in first career; poise and power would dissolve as bouts wore on ... Inexplicably lost to Tommy Morrison (L 12) in '93 ... THE RING Fighter of the Year: 1973, '76.

5

LARRY HOLMES

Years Fought: March 21, 1973-present
Record: 66-6 (42)

Career Capsule: Won the WBC title in 1978 from Ken Norton by split decision after 15 action-packed rounds ... In '80, became the only man to stop Muhammad Ali (KO 11) ... Most memorable title defense came against Gerry Cooney (KO 13) in '82 ... Vacated WBC title in '83 after 16 defenses, but was named IBF champ later that year after beating Marvis Frazier (KO 1) ... Lost IBF title and perfect record against Michael Spinks (L 15) in '85 in fourth IBF defense ... Announced retirement after losing controversial decision (L 15) to Spinks in '86 rematch ... Blown out by Mike Tyson (KO by 4) in comeback bid for unified title in '88 ... Returned again in '91, and lost title challenges against Evander Holyfield (L 12) in '92 and Oliver McCall (L 12) in '95 ... Other top fighters he beat: Earnie Shavers, Mike Weaver, Trevor Berbick, Leon Spinks, Tim Witherspoon, Bonecrusher Smith, Ray Mercer.

A Holmes right rearranges Leon Spinks' face

Why He's Rated Where He's Rated: Boasted the best jab in heavyweight history ... Dominated the division throughout the first half of the '80s, turning away the best opposition available—at a time when there weren't many worthy challengers ... Started career 48-0, one win shy of Rocky Marciano's record mark ... Extremely tough, often rising from the floor to win grueling contests ... Repeated comebacks without great success tainted legacy a bit ... THE RING Fighter of the Year: 1982.

6

ROCKY MARCIANO

Years Fought: March 17, 1947-September 21, 1955
Record: 49-0 (43)

Career Capsule: Withdrew from 1948 Olympic Trials with thumb injury ... Began pro career at 24 by beating Lee Epperson (KO 3) in '47 ... Ended career of Joe Louis (KO 8) in '51 ... Won heavyweight title in '52, coming off the floor to beat Jersey Joe Walcott (KO 13) ... Crushed Walcott in rematch (KO 1) in '53 ... Beat former champion Ezzard Charles twice in '54 ... Made seven successful title defenses before retiring in '55 ... Died in a plane crash in '69 ... Other top fighters he beat: Archie Moore, Roland LaStarza, Lee Savold, Rex Layne.

Marciano runs his record to 49-0 by knocking out Archie Moore

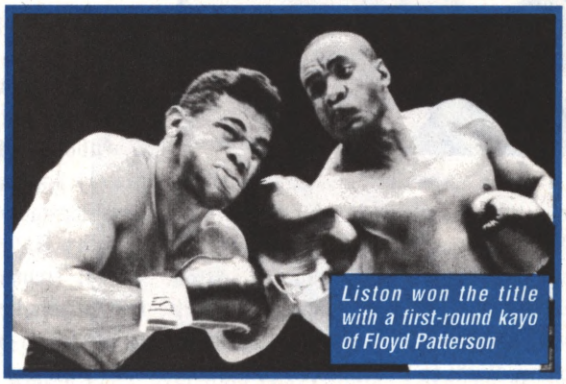
Why He's Rated Where He's Rated: The only heavyweight champion to retire undefeated ... An unstoppable force able to absorb inhuman amounts of punishment ... Possessed an indomitable will to win ... One of the greatest bodypunchers of all-time ... Never seemed to tire ... Generated great power from his granite-like 5'10½" frame ... Had the shortest reach of any heavyweight champion (68") ... Concrete chin, but very cut prone ... Preserved his image by quitting before skills declined ... Had weak jab ... Fought Charles, Walcott, Moore, and Louis past their primes ... THE RING Fighter of the Year: 1952, '54, '55.

SONNY LISTON

7

Years Fought: September 21, 1953-June 29, 1970
Record: 50-4 (39)

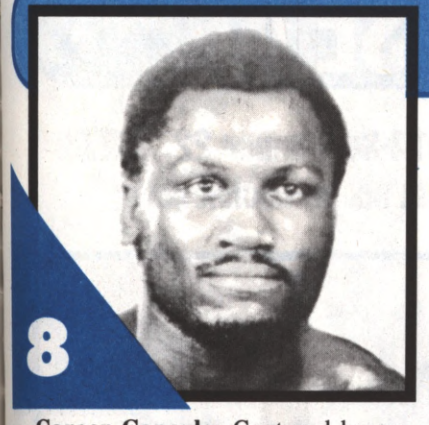
Career Capsule: Won Golden Gloves title at 21 in 1953 after being paroled from prison in '52 ... Made pro debut by beating Don Smith (KO 1) ... Won 35 of first 36 fights, 25 by knockout ... Crushed Floyd Patterson in '62 in one round to win world title ... Beat Patterson again in '63 by one-round kayo in first title defense ... Lost heavy title in '64 to Muhammad Ali (KO by 7), claiming shoulder injury prevented him from answering bell for seventh round ... Lost to Ali again in '65 by controversial kayo in first round ... Fought for the last time in '70 against Chuck Wepner (KO 10) ... Died six months later of mysterious causes in Las Vegas ... Other top fighters he beat: Cleveland Williams, Eddie Machen, Zora Folley, Mike DeJohn, Nino Valdes, Bert Whitehurst.



Liston won the title with a first-round kayo of Floyd Patterson

Why He's Rated Where He's Rated: Most feared fighter of his era ... Possessed paralyzing power in his left hand, both hooking and jabbing ... Effortlessly dispatched adversaries on path to the title ... Considered unbeatable following two destructions of Patterson ... Had better boxing skills than given credit for, beat the skillful Machen on points, proving he was more than just a crude slugger ... Remembered mostly for his two controversial setbacks against Ali ... Haunted by links to organized crime throughout career ... Gained cult status after death.

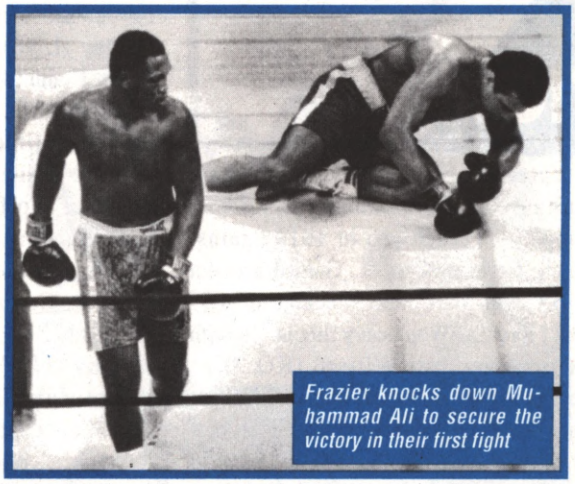
JOE FRAZIER



8

Years Fought: August 16, 1965-December 3, 1981
Record: 32-4-1 (27)

Career Capsule: Captured heavyweight gold at 1964 Olympics ... Beat Buster Mathis (KO 11) to win the vacant New York heavyweight title in '68 ... In fifth defense, unified title by beating WBA champ Jimmy Ellis (KO 5) ... In "The Fight Of The Century" in '71, outdueled Muhammad Ali (W 15) to retain title ... In fifth defense of world title, handed first loss by George Foreman (KO by 2) in '73 ... Lost 12-round decision in non-title rematch with Ali in '74 ... Lost rubber match to Ali (KO by 14) in final title fight, "The Thrilla in Manila" in '75 ... Retired after losing again to Foreman (KO by 5) in '76, but had one comeback fight five years later ... Other top fighters he beat: Oscar Bonavena, Eddie Machen, Doug Jones, George Chuvalo, Manuel Ramos, Jerry Quarry, Bob Foster.



Frazier knocks down Muhammad Ali to secure the victory in their first fight

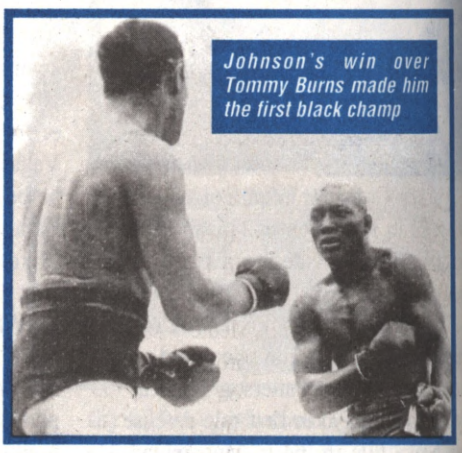
Why He's Rated Where He's Rated: Toughest opponent of the greatest heavyweight ever, Ali, handing him his first defeat and barely losing both rematches ... Possessed the most fearsome left hook in heavyweight history ... One of the most dominant forces during the heavyweights' most competitive era ... Never upset by a lesser fighter, losing only to Ali and Foreman ... Exceptionally tough and willing ... Not much of a defensive fighter ... Career faded quickly due to accumulation of punishment ... THE RING Fighter of the Year: 1967, '70, '71.

9 JACK JOHNSON

Years Fought: 1897-May 15, 1928
Record: 78-13-11 (49) with 18 no-decisions, 1 no-contest

Career Capsule: Won black heavyweight title from Denver Ed Martin (W 20) in 1903, and made four successful defenses over next two years ... After years of being snubbed, finally received shot at world title in '08 and stopped Tommy Burns in 14 rounds ... Made successful defenses against middleweight champion Stanley Ketchel (KO 12) in '09 and former heavyweight champ James J. Jeffries (KO 15) in '10 ... Legal problems forced him to flee to Canada and then Europe in the midst of title reign ... At the age of 37, lost title to Jess Willard (KO by 26) in 10th defense in '15, a fight in which many believe he took a dive ... Fought on until the age of 50 ... Other top fighters he beat: Sam McVey, Joe Jeannette, Sam Langford, Bob Fitzsimmons, Jim Flynn.

Why He's Rated Where He's Rated: Tremendously significant for the barriers he broke, becoming the first African-American heavyweight champion and an important cultural figure whose controversial behavior caused race riots ... Years ahead of his time stylistically, revolutionized boxing footwork, defense, and the concept of ring generalship ... Reign would surely have lasted even longer had he not had to wait until the age of 30 for a title shot ... Losses to lesser fighters like Joe Choynski, Marvin Hart, and numerous others diminish standing.



Johnson's win over Tommy Burns made him the first black champ

10 JACK DEMPSEY

Years Fought: August 17, 1914-September 22, 1927
Record: 61-6-8 (50) with six no-decisions

Career Capsule: Honed boxing skills working odd jobs in mining and timber camps ... Turned pro in 1914 against Young Herman (D 6) ... Gained acclaim in '18 with first-round knockout of 6'7" Fred Fulton ... Won heavy title in '19 with victory over Jess Willard (KO 3) ... Defended title successfully six times ... Participated in fight with first million-dollar gate, beating Georges Carpentier (KO 4) ... Scored major victory in '23 over Luis Angel Firpo (KO 2) in one of most exciting fights of all-time ... Took three years off after Firpo fight ... Lost heavy title in '26 to challenger Gene Tunney (L 10) ... Lost rematch to Tunney (L 10) in famous "Long Count" bout of '27, producing first $2-million gate ... Retired in '27 to lucrative exhibition circuit ... Other top fighters he beat: Battling Levinsky, Tommy Gibbons, Jack Sharkey, Gunboat Smith, Jim Flynn, Billy Miske.

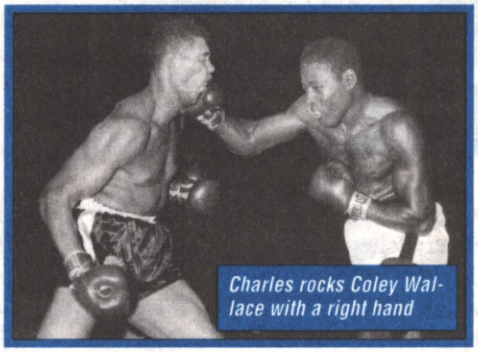
Why He's Rated Where He's Rated: Considered to be the ring's first superstar ... Known for his ferocious kill-or-be-killed style ... Tenacious competitor who rebounded after Firpo knocked him down twice, once through the ropes ... Scorned by contemporaries as draft-dodger ... Upset by portly Willie Meehan in '18 ... Had trouble with Tunney's clever footwork and fast jab ... Skirted black contender Harry Wills.

Dempsey drills Jess Willard with a right en route to winning the title

11 EZZARD CHARLES

Years Fought: March 15, 1940-September 1, 1959
Record: 96-25-1 (58)

Career Capsule: Won 42 consecutive fights as amateur ... Captured 1939 National Amateur Athletic Union middleweight title ... Made pro debut in '40 at age 18 with victory over Medley Johnson (KO 3) ... Suffered first pro loss to Ken Overlin (L 10) in '41 ... Won vacant NBA heavyweight title by beating Jersey Joe Walcott (W 15) in '49 ... Defended NBA title three times ... Gained recognition as world champion by beating comebacking Joe Louis (W 15) in '50 ... Lost world title in '51 to Walcott (KO by 7) ... Defeated in '52 by Walcott (L 15) in title rematch ... Lost two title challenges in '54 to Rocky Marciano (L 15, KO by 8) ... Retired in '59 after loss to Alvin Green (L 10) ... Other top fighters he beat: Joey Maxim, Gus Lesnevich, Rex Layne, Bob Satterfield, Jimmy Bivins, Archie Moore, Charley Burley, Lloyd Marshall, Elmer Ray.



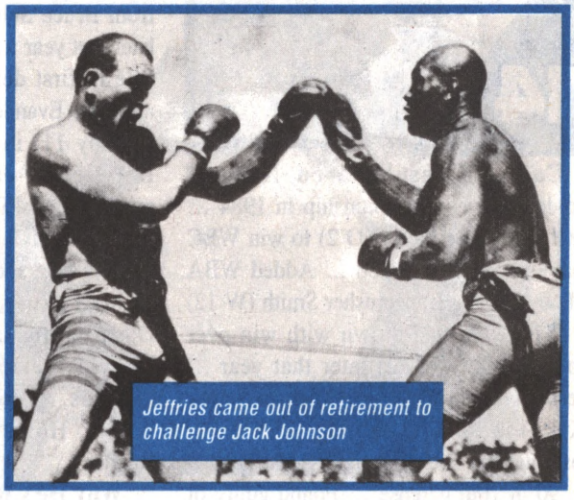
Charles rocks Coley Wallace with a right hand

Why He's Rated Where He's Rated: Great skills, stamina, and heart enabled him to compete with bigger fighters ... One of the most underrated heavy champs ... Involved in 13 title fights, winning nine ... Conquered Hall of Famers Maxim, Burley, and Moore ... Ruled Moore in his prime with three victories ... Entered the ring barely 10 pounds over light heavy limit ... Was never as aggressive after death of Sam Baroudi, who died as a result of beating he took in kayo loss to Charles in '48 ... Criticized in latter stages of career for failing to finish opponents ... THE RING Fighter of the Year: 1949, '50.

12 JAMES J. JEFFRIES

Years Fought: 1896-July 4, 1910
Record: 18-1-2 (15)

Career Capsule: Fought a 20-round draw with Joe Choynski in only his seventh pro fight ... Tallied third-round knockout of Peter Jackson in 1898 ... Also decisioned highly respected Tom Sharkey (W 20) and Bob Armstrong (W 10) in '98 to establish himself as leading contender ... Knocked out Bob Fitzsimmons in the 11th round to capture heavyweight title in 1899 ... Made seven successful defenses, including a rematch with Fitzsimmons (KO 8) and a pair of knockouts of Jim Corbett (KO 23, KO 10) ... Retired undefeated in 1905, having already beaten all the best white heavyweights available ... Came out of retirement in 1910 at the urging of white fans who wanted him to regain the title from African-American Jack Johnson ... Suffered a humiliating, one-sided knockout loss to Johnson (KO by 15) and never fought again ... Other top fighters he beat: Gus Ruhlin, Joe Goddard, Jack Munroe.



Jeffries came out of retirement to challenge Jack Johnson

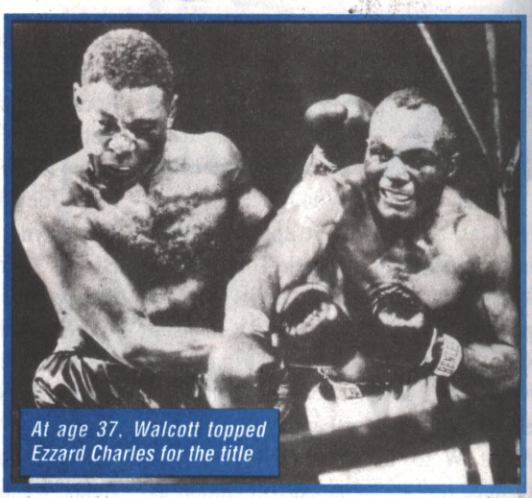
Why He's Rated Where He's Rated: Super strong, brave, and intelligent ... The first heavyweight champ to fight out of a crouch, a technique that enabled him to avoid punishment and throw a wicked left hook from short range ... First bouts with Fitzsimmons and Corbett were classics that highlighted Jeffries' stamina and punching power... Was only a shadow of his former self when he returned to fight Johnson.

JERSEY JOE WALCOTT

13

Years Fought: September 9, 1930-May 15, 1953
Record: 53-18-1 (33)

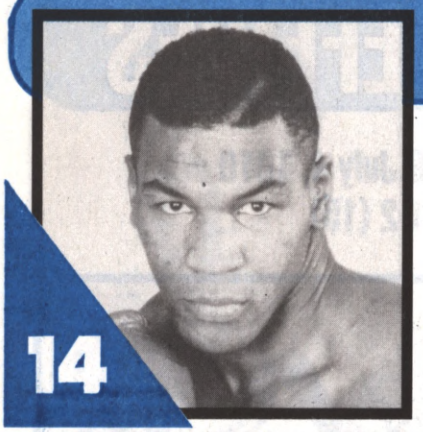
Career Capsule: Born Arnold Cream, changed ring name to Joe Walcott to honor former welterweight champ ... Started boxing professionally at age 16 ... Lost two title fights to Joe Louis (L 15, KO by 11) in '47 and '48; decision in first fight highly controversial ... Lost third and fourth title bids against Ezzard Charles in '49 and '51 ... Landed crown in '51 in third meeting with Charles (KO 7) at age 37, becoming oldest heavy champion ever at the time ... Defended the title against Charles (W 15) in '52 ... Lost title to Rocky Marciano (KO by 13) in '52 after knocking Marciano down in first round ... Retired after rematch with Marciano (KO by 1) ... Other top fighters he beat: Jimmy Bivins, Joey Maxim, Curtis Sheppard, Joe Baksi, Lee Oma, Willie Reddish, Elmer Ray, Harold Johnson.



At age 37, Walcott topped Ezzard Charles for the title

Why He's Rated Where He's Rated: Considered by legendary trainer Eddie Futch as "one of the finest technicians in heavyweight history" ... Had thunderous left hook ... Waited 17 years for first title shot against Joe Louis ... Battled color barrier for much of his early career ... Inspirational figure who showed what perseverance can do ... Underestimated the irrepressible Marciano.

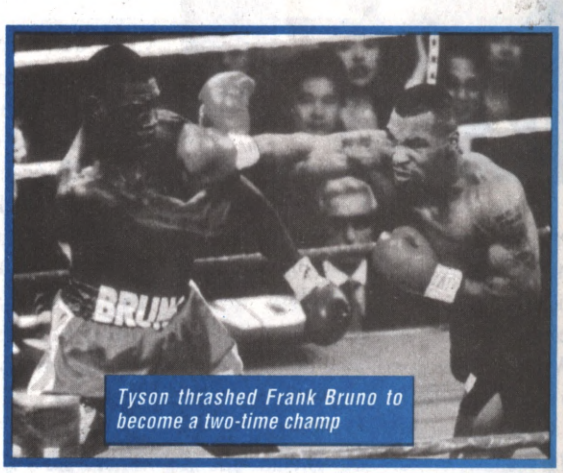
MIKE TYSON



14

Years Fought: March 6, 1985-present
Record: 45-3 (39)

Career Capsule: Won National Golden Gloves championship in 1984 ... Beat Trevor Berbick (KO 2) to win WBC heavyweight title in '86 ... Added WBA title by beating Bonecrusher Smith (W 12) in '87 ... Unified crown with win over Tony Tucker (W 12) later that year ... Destroyed "linear" champ Michael Spinks (KO 1) in '88 ... Lost title in shocking upset against Buster Douglas (KO by 10) in '90 in 10th defense ... Found guilty of rape in '92, and spent three years in jail ... Returned in '95, and added WBC title by beating Frank Bruno (KO 3) in '96 ... Gave up WBC title, but won WBA title from Bruce Seldon (KO 1) later that year ... Lost WBA title in first defense when upset by Evander Holyfield (KO by 11) in '96 ... Bit Holyfield's ears in '97 rematch, resulting in a DQ loss, a record-setting $3-million fine, and revocation of his boxing license ... Other top fighters he beat: Marvis Frazier, Pinklon Thomas, Tyrell Biggs, Larry Holmes, Razor Ruddock.



Tyson thrashed Frank Bruno to become a two-time champ

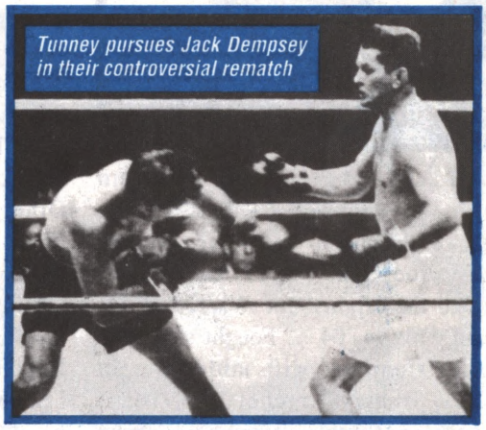
Why He's Rated Where He's Rated: In his prime, one of the most intimidating, dominant champs ever ... Youngest man (20) to win a version of the heavyweight title ... Exceptional power and hand speed ... Never quite the same after loss to Douglas ... Lost to the only two opponents who really stood up to him ... May be remembered more for cowardly ear bite than anything else ... THE RING Fighter of the Year: 1986, '88.

15

GENE TUNNEY

Years Fought: July 3, 1915-July 26, 1928
Record: 65-1-1 (47) with 19 no-decisions, 1 no-contest

Career Capsule: Turned pro at age 18, then joined the Marines in 1917 and fought seven times while stationed in France ... Rose to prominence by beating Soldier Jones (KO 7) on undercard of Jack Dempsey-Georges Carpentier in '21 ... Beat Battling Levinsky (W 12) for the American light heavyweight title in '22 ... Suffered only loss of career later that year against Harry Greb (L 15) ... Avenged defeat by winning a pair of 15-round decisions over Greb in '23 ... Upset popular champ Jack Dempsey (W 10) for world heavyweight title in '26 ... Won rematch with Dempsey (W 10) in '27 in famous "long count" fight, a meeting that produced a then-record $2.6-million gate ... Made second defense in '28, beating Tom Heeney (KO 11), and retired as champ ... Other top fighters he beat: Jack Burke, Dan O'Dowd, Georges Carpentier, Tommy Gibbons.



Tunney pursues Jack Dempsey in their controversial rematch

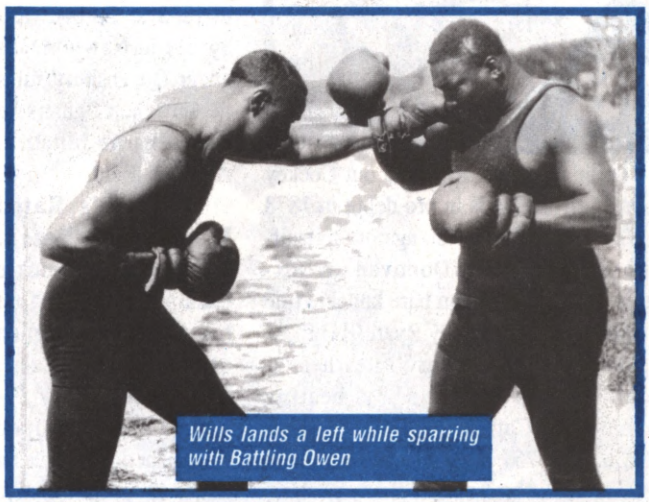
Why He's Rated Where He's Rated: First fighter to retire as heavyweight champion ... Excellent record, suffering only one loss in 13-year career ... Ended seven-year title reign of the legendary Dempsey ... First fighter to command a million-dollar purse ... An exceptional pure boxer ... One of the quickest movers in division history ... Second win over Dempsey tainted by controversial count ... Never fought a black opponent ... THE RING Fighter of the Year: 1928.

16

HARRY WILLS

Years Fought: 1910-August 4, 1932
Record: 65-8-2 (47) with 25 no-decisions, 3 no-contests

Career Capsule: Got the better of fellow Hall of Famer Sam Langford in 18-bout series ... Also dominated Sam McVey, another talented black heavy, knocking him out three consecutive times in 1917 ... Iced Fred Fulton (KO 3) in 1920 to become leading contender for world title held by Jack Dempsey ... When promoter Tex Richard balked at a racially mixed bout with Dempsey, New York boxing commissioner James A. Farley refused to sanction any match for Dempsey unless the challenger was Wills. But Dempsey gave up his New York license and fought Gene Tunney in Philadelphia instead ... Got the better of a 12-round no-decision against Luis Angel Firpo (who'd knocked Dempsey out of the ring the year before) in '24 ... Kept fighting until '32, but never got a crack at the title ... Other top fighters he beat: Gunboat Smith, Kid Cotton, Ed Martin, Bill Tate, Bartley Madden, Jack Thompson, Jim Johnson.



Wills lands a left while sparring with Battling Owen

Why He's Rated Where He's Rated: Towered over most of his contemporaries at 6'4", 220 pounds ... Possessed power, speed, and boxing skills ... Outstanding bodypuncher ... Could very well have been the second black heavyweight champion if given the opportunity.

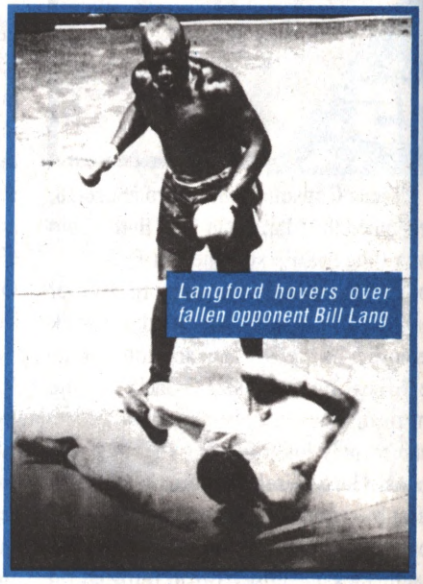
17

SAM LANGFORD

Years Fought: April 11, 1902-August 2, 1926
Record: 167-38-37 (117) with 48 no-decisions, 3 no-contests

Career Capsule: Began 24-year pro career as a junior welter ... Beat reigning lightweight champ and future Hall of Famer Joe Gans (W 15) in 1903 ... Battled the original Joe Walcott to 15-round draw in '04 ... Fought six-round no-decision bout with middleweight champ Stanley Ketchel in 1910 ... Knocked out light heavyweight champ Philadelphia Jack O'Brien (KO 5) in 1911 ... Was forced to fight extended series of bouts with other outstanding black heavyweights because top white fighters refused to fight him ... Fought Harry Wills 18 times (2-9 with 7 no-decisions), and had 10 fights each with Sam McVey, Joe Jeannette, Jim Barry, Jeff Clark, and Bill Tate ... Briefly held Mexican heavyweight title in '23 ... Other top fighters he beat: Jack Blackburn, Jim Flynn, Dixie Kid, Gunboat Smith, Bearcat Wright, George Godfrey, Tiger Flowers, Sandy Ferguson.

Why He's Rated Where He's Rated: Ranked seventh all-time at heavyweight by Nat Fleischer, founder of THE RING, in 1958 ... Although denied title shot because of racial prejudice, was considered as good as any heavyweight during first decade of the 20th century.



Langford hovers over fallen opponent Bill Lang

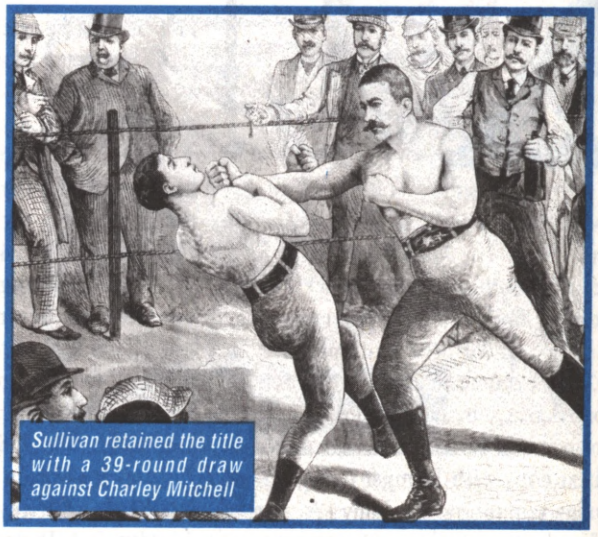
18

JOHN L. SULLIVAN

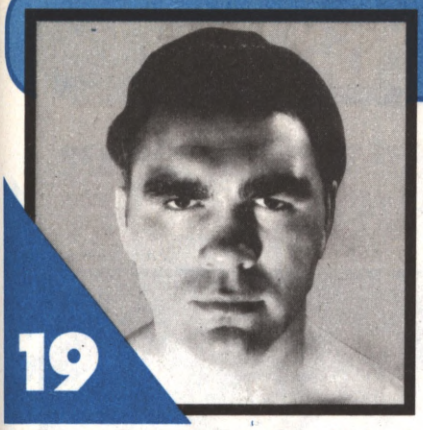
Years Fought: 1878-September 7, 1892
Record: 41-1-3 (36)

Career Capsule: Knocked out Cockey Woods in five rounds in pro debut in 1878 ... Won exhibitions in '80 against scientific boxer Prof. Mike Donovan and ex-champ Joe Goss ... Won bare knuckle title in 1882 by beating Paddy Ryan (KO 9) ... Became first Queensbury rules heavyweight champ in 1885 by beating Dominick McCaffrey ... Defeated Jake Kilrain (KO 75) in memorable bout in 1889 ... Took three years off after Kilrain fight to tour in exhibitions, and appeared in a play called *Honest Hearts And Willing Hands* ... Fought Gentleman Jim Corbett during exhibition tour ... Lost heavy title in 1892 to Corbett (KO by 21) in New Orleans under Queensbury rules ... Other top fighters he beat: Charlie Mitchell, Alf Greenfield.

Why He's Rated Where He's Rated: The last bare knuckle champion and the first heavyweight champion of the gloved era ... Charisma and widespread fame helped established boxing as a major sport in America ... Possessed great punching power and stamina ... Beloved by Boston, which awarded him jewel-encrusted, $10,000 belt ... Was often out of shape from carousing ... Lacked speed and conditioning to handle the quickness and boxing skills of Corbett.



Sullivan retained the title with a 39-round draw against Charley Mitchell



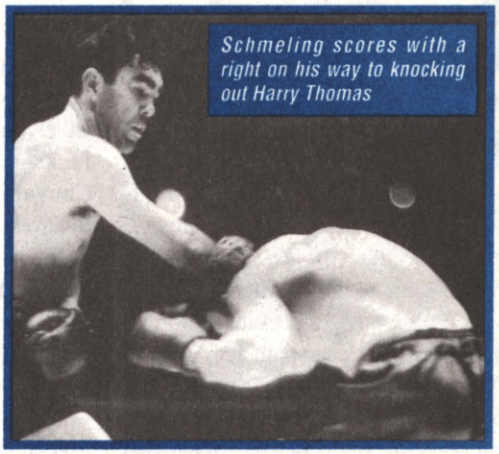
19

MAX SCHMELING

Years Fought: August 8, 1924-October 31, 1948
Record: 56-10-4 (39)

Career Capsule: Turned professional at 19 in 1924 ... Won German light heavy title in '26, beating Max Diekmann (KO 1) ... Won European light heavy title in '27 ... Won German heavy title in '28 ... Became first heavy champion to win title on disqualification, beating Jack Sharkey (W Disq. 4) in '30 ... Won first defense over Young Stribling (KO 15) in '31 ... Lost title in '32 to Sharkey (L 15) ... Handed a young Joe Louis (KO 12) his first pro defeat in '36 ... Lost in '38 to Louis (KO by 1) in historic rematch for heavy title ... Retired in '48 ... At press time, oldest living former heavy champ (93) ... Other top fighters he beat: Johnny Risko, Paolino Uzcudun, Mickey Walker, Steve Hamas.

Why He's Rated Where He's Rated: Had power in both hands, including a crushing right hook ... Pulled off monumental upset by knocking out Louis in 1936 ... Considered unworthy champ by Americans due to DQ victory over Sharkey ... Lost to both Max Baer and Hamas in one-year span ... Denied title shot at James Braddock after Louis victory in '36 ... Victim of Nazi symbolism, though represented by Jewish manager ... Remembered more for savage beating in Louis rematch than for many accomplishments ... THE RING Fighter of the Year: 1930.



Schmeling scores with a right on his way to knocking out Harry Thomas

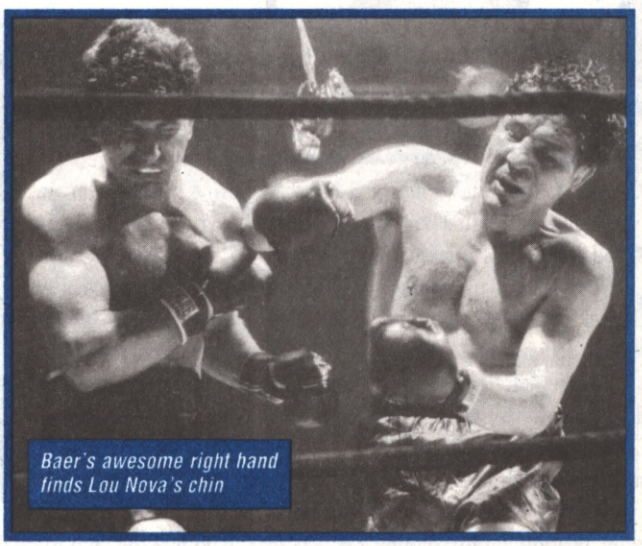
20

MAX BAER

Years Fought: May 16, 1929-April 4, 1941
Record: 70-13 (52)

Career Capsule: Charged with manslaughter after opponent Frankie Campbell (KO 5) died of head injuries suffered in 1930 bout, but ultimately cleared of criminal charges ... Tallied 10th-round knockout of Max Schmeling in '33 ... Annexed heavyweight title in '34, knocking down defending champion Primo Carnera 11 times before the fight was stopped in the 11th round ... Lost title via 15-round decision to lightly regarded Jimmy Braddock in his first defense ... Knocked out by up-and-coming Joe Louis (KO by 4) in his next bout ... Won 30 of his next 34 bouts, but retired after eighth-round knockout loss to Lou Nova ... Other top fighters he beat: Tommy Farr, Tony Galento, Ernie Schaaf, King Levinsky, Tom Heeney.

Why He's Rated Where He's Rated: Potent right hand considered one of the best in heavyweight history ... Kayo of Schmeling in front of 60,000 fans at Yankee Stadium came three years before Schmeling knocked out Joe Louis ... Death of Campbell took an emotional toll that might have led to excessive clowning in later bouts ... Spent too much time living the high life when he should have been training.



Baer's awesome right hand finds Lou Nova's chin

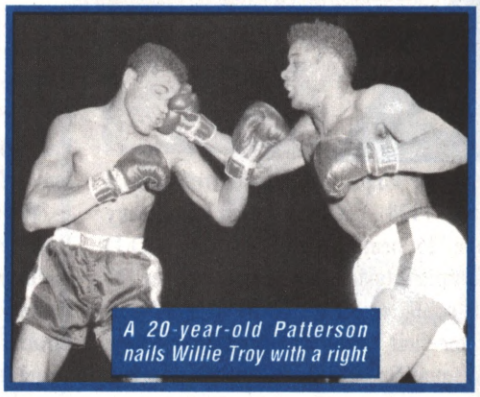
21

FLOYD PATTERSON

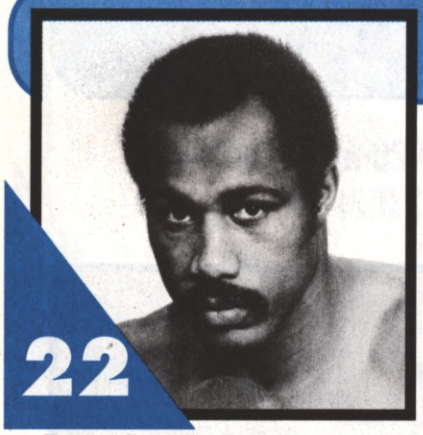
Years Fought: September 12, 1952-September 20, 1972
Record: 55-8-1 (40)

Career Capsule: Captured middleweight gold at 1952 Olympics ... Turned pro under the guidance of Cus D'Amato same year ... Suffered first pro loss in '54, dropping a decision to former light heavyweight champion Joey Maxim ... Won vacant heavyweight title in '56, knocking out Archie Moore in the fifth round ... Lost title to Ingemar Johansson (KO by 3) in '59 in his fifth defense ... Regained title the next year and made two more defenses before losing the crown to Sonny Liston in '62 ... Failed in two attempts to regain title, losing to Liston (KO by 1) in '63 and Muhammad Ali in '65 (KO by 12) ... Other top fighters he beat: Tommy Jackson, Eddie Machen, George Chuvalo, Henry Cooper, Oscar Bonavena.

Why He's Rated Where He's Rated: Youngest man (21) to win undisputed heavyweight title ... First man to regain the heavyweight title ... Fastest hands of any pre-Ali heavyweight ... Most famous proponent of the peek-a-boo defense and leaping left hook ... Knocked down more times in world title fights (17) than any other heavyweight champ in history ... Difficulty recovering emotionally from defeats ... Most title defenses were against no-hopers such as Roy Harris, Brian London, and Tom McNeeley ... Ducked number-one contender Liston for several years before granting him title shot ... THE RING Fighter of the Year: 1956, '60.



A 20-year-old Patterson nails Willie Troy with a right



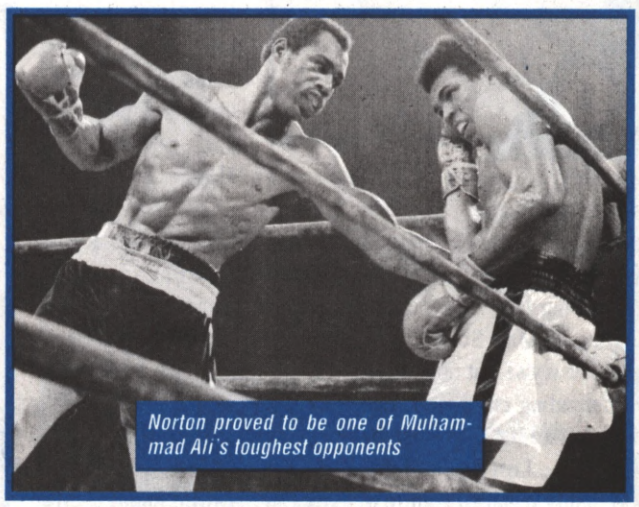
22

KEN NORTON

Years Fought: November 14, 1967-May 11, 1981
Record: 42-7-1 (33)

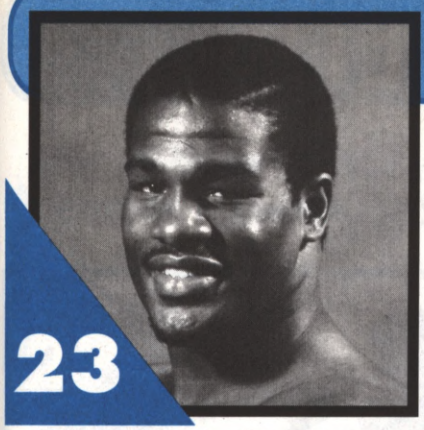
Career Capsule: Won first 16 fights before losing to the first ranked contender he faced, Jose Luis Garcia (KO by 8) in '70 ... Upset Muhammad Ali (W 12) in '73, breaking The Greatest's jaw en route to a split decision ... Lost 12-round split decision in rematch with Ali later that year ... Blown away by George Foreman (KO by 2) in world title challenge in '74 ... Lost rubber match to Ali (L 15) for title in '76 ... Named WBC heavyweight champion after beating Jimmy Young (W 15) in '77 ... Lost belt in a classic fight with Larry Holmes (L 15) in first title defense in '78 ... Suffered first-round kayo losses to Earnie Shavers in '79 and Gerry Cooney in '81, prompting retirement ... Other top fighters he beat: Jose Luis Garcia, Jerry Quarry, Duane Bobick, Henry Clark.

Why He's Rated Where He's Rated: One of only two men to beat Ali before the legendary champion was well past his prime ... An aggressive, versatile fighter who had the skill to be dominant in almost any other era ... Decision losses to Ali and Holmes all could have gone the other way ... Achieved a great deal for someone who didn't start boxing until his 20s ... Never really *won* a world title ... Kayoed several times, and not just at the tail end of his career.



Norton proved to be one of Muhammad Ali's toughest opponents

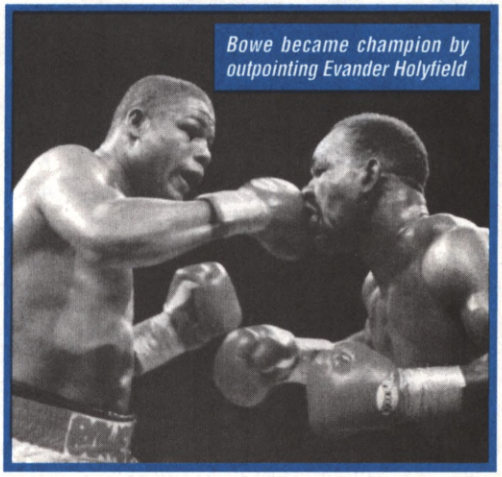
RIDDICK BOWE



23

Years Fought: March 6, 1989-December 14, 1996
Record: 40-1 (32)

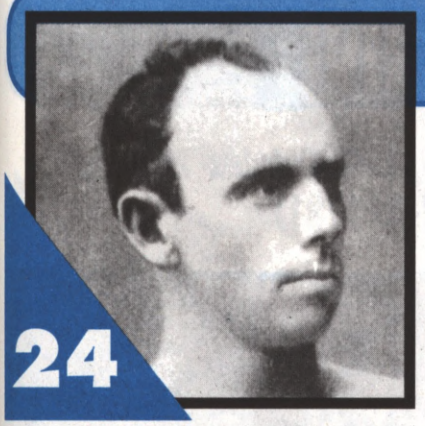
Career Capsule: Won New York Golden Gloves four times ... Captured super heavyweight silver at 1988 Olympics, losing to Lennox Lewis in the finals ... Turned pro in '89 against Lionel Butler (KO 2) ... Won first 34 fights, 29 by knockout ... Became most recent undisputed heavy champ by beating Evander Holyfield (W 12) in '92 ... Lost WBA and IBF versions of title in '93 to Holyfield (L 12) after two successful defenses ... Won '95 rubber match against Holyfield (KO 8) ... Retired in '96 after two disqualification victories over Andrew Golota ... In '98, sentenced to 18-24 months in federal prison for abducting estranged wife and children at knifepoint ... Other top fighters he beat: Tyrell Biggs, Tony Tubbs, Pinklon Thomas, Herbie Hide, Pierre Coetzer, Bruce Seldon, Michael Dokes.



Bowe became champion by outpointing Evander Holyfield

Why He's Rated Where He's Rated: Beat Holyfield in two of three bouts ... A big stand-up boxer with considerable boxing skills, especially on the inside ... Mercuric climb up ratings can be traced to excellent punching power ... Labeled as unmotivated and lazy early in career ... Easy to hit ... Absorbed massive amounts of punishment, especially in Holyfield and Golota fights ... Plagued by chaotic personal life ... THE RING Fighter of the Year: 1992.

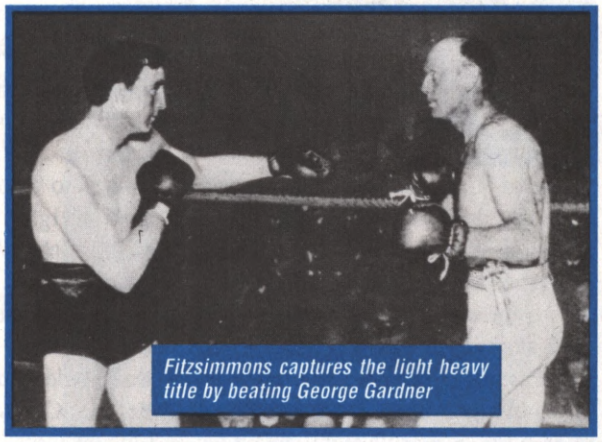
BOB FITZSIMMONS



24

Years Fought: 1883-February 20, 1914
Record: 46-8 (39) with 21 no-decisions, 1 no-contest

Career Capsule: Englishman spent the first seven years of his career fighting in Australia ... Beat Nonpareil Jack Dempsey (KO 13) for world middleweight championship in 1891, and made one successful defense before vacating title ... At age 34, defeated James J. Corbett (KO 14) for heavyweight title in 1897, despite giving away 16 pounds ... Lost belt in first defense against James J. Jeffries (KO by 11) in 1899 ... Lost again to Jeffries (KO by 8) in 1902 bid to regain title ... Beat George Gardner (W 20) for light heavyweight title in '03 ... Lost title to Philadelphia Jack O'Brien (KO by 13) in '05 in first title defense ... Last major fight was loss to Jack Johnson (KO by 2) in '07, but kept fighting sporadically for seven more years ... Other top fighters he beat: Jim Hall, Billy McCarthy, Peter Maher, Dan Creedon, Tom Sharkey.



Fitzsimmons captures the light heavy title by beating George Gardner

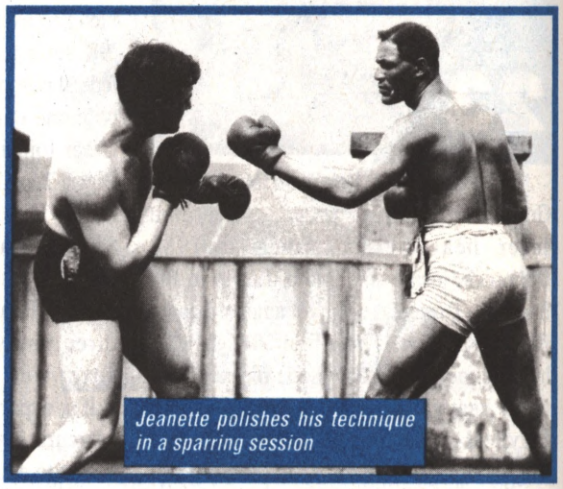
Why He's Rated Where He's Rated: The first three-division titleholder ... The smallest of all heavyweight champions, but welcomed the challenges of much larger men ... One of the best bodypunchers in heavyweight history—and one of the hardest pound-for-pound punchers ever ... Won title from Corbett with a punch to the solar plexus ... Defied age, fighting past his 50th birthday ... Didn't make a single successful title defense in his two years as a rather inactive heavyweight champ ... Knocked out seven times.

JOE JEANNETTE

25

Years Fought: November 11, 1904-November 11, 1919
Record: 79-9-6 (66) with 62 no-decisions, 1 no-contest

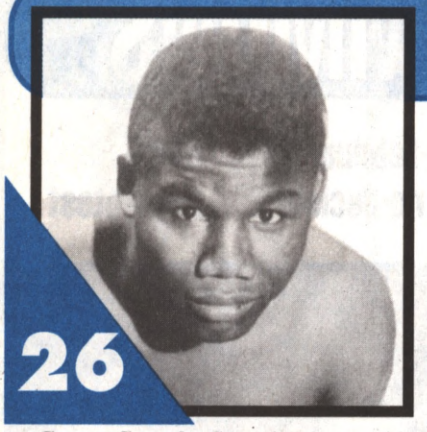
Career Capsule: Turned pro at the relatively late age of 25 ... Fought Jack Johnson seven times: one win, one loss, one draw, and four no-decisions ... Battled Sam Langford 15 times: three wins, six losses, two draws, and four no-decisions ... Also fought lengthy series of bouts with Morris Harris, Black Bill, Jim Johnson, and Harry Wills ... Won 15-round decision over then-European heavyweight champ and future world light heavyweight champ Georges Carpentier in 1914 ... Most famous bout of career came in 1909 against Sam McVey in Paris in a fight to the finish; overcame 27 knockdowns to stop McVey in 50 rounds ... Kept fighting until he was 40 ... Other top fighters he beat: Sandy Ferguson, Bill Tate, Arthur Perkley, Al Kubiak.



Jeanette polishes his technique in a sparring session

Why He's Rated Where He's Rated: Another gifted black fighter whose career was sabotaged by racial prejudice ... Had tremendous endurance and courage ... After Jack Johnson won the title from Tommy Burns to become first black heavy champ, Jeannette still couldn't get a title shot, and said: "Jack forgot about his old friends after he became champion and drew the color line against his own people."

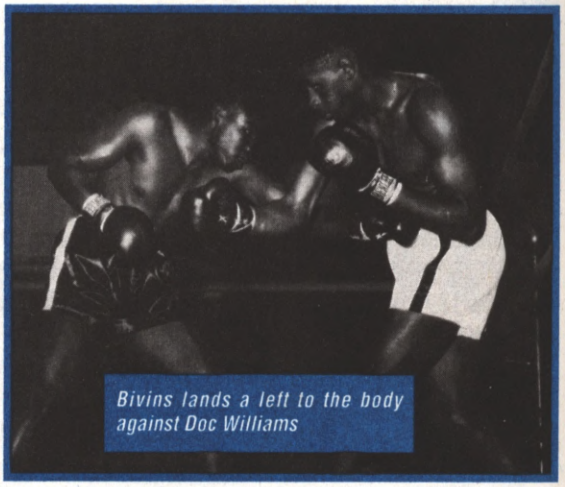
JIMMY BIVINS



26

Years Fought: January 15, 1940-October 28, 1955
Record: 86-25-1 (31)

Career Capsule: Started out as a middleweight, but fought as light heavy and heavyweight throughout much of career ... Defeated Hall of Famer Charley Burley (W 10) in only his 15th pro fight ... In 1942 alone, beat heavyweight contenders Bob Pastor (W 10), Tami Mauriello (W 10), and Lee Savold (W 10), as well as reigning light heavyweight champ Gus Lesnevich (W 10) in a non-title bout, future light heavy champ Joey Maxim (W 10), and former middleweight champ Billy Soose (W 10) ... Beat Ezzard Charles (W 10) in '43 and Archie Moore (KO 6) in '45 ... Began slow slide in '47 when both Charles (KO by 4) and Moore (KO by 9) stopped him in rematches ... Lost 10-round decision to Joe Louis in '51 ... Still had enough to outpoint future heavyweight contender Mike DeJohn (W 6) in final fight of career ... Other top fighters he beat: Anton Christoforidis, Lloyd Marshall, Teddy Yarosz, Melio Bettina, Curtis Sheppard, Coley Wallace.



Bivins lands a left to the body against Doc Williams

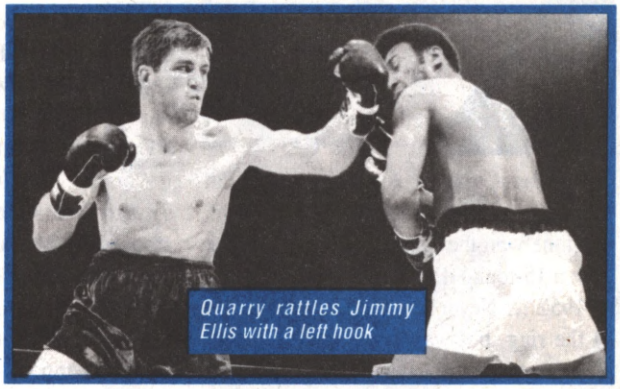
Why He's Rated Where He's Rated: Despite his relatively small size (5'10", 185 pounds tops), was able to more than hold his own with the best heavyweights of his era ... Speedy, savvy boxer with a crisp, though not devastating, punch ... Even though Louis was champion during his prime, the fact that he was black hindered his hopes for a title shot (only three of Louis' 25 title defenses came against black fighters).

27

JERRY QUARRY

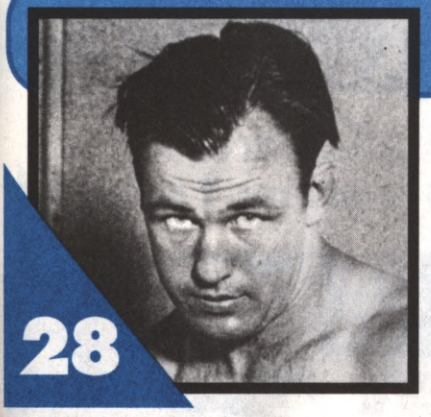
Years Fought: May 7, 1965-October 30, 1992
Record: 53-9-4 (33)

Career Capsule: Won pro debut over Gene Hamilton (W 4) ... Undefeated in first 20 fights, winning 11 by knockout ... First loss came against Eddie Machen (L 10) in 1966 ... Beat former heavyweight champion Floyd Patterson (W 12) in '67 ... Failed against Jimmy Ellis (L 15) in bid to win vacant WBA title in '68 ... Was first opponent of Muhammad Ali (KO by 3) after Ali returned from exile in '70 ... Lost to Ali again (KO by 7) in '72 ... Beat Ron Lyle (W 12) in '73 ... Surprised Earnie Shavers (KO 1) later that same year ... Lost twice by kayo to Joe Frazier, in '69 and '74 ... Beaten by Ken Norton (KO by 5) in '75 ... Won two comeback fights in '83 ... Lost to Ron Cranmer (L 6) in '92 in final comeback try ... Struggling today with brain damage ... Other top fighters he beat: Buster Mathis, Brian London, Thad Spencer, Mac Foster, Jack Bodell, Alex Miteff, Joey Orbillo.



Quarry rattles Jimmy Ellis with a left hook

Why He's Rated Where He's Rated: Powerful puncher who had great stamina and too much courage for his own good... Trademark left hook was devastating ... Absorbed tremendous amounts of punishment ... Fought the very best during Golden Era of heavyweight division ... Fell short in title bouts ... Ignored defensive skills in order to slug ... Fought years beyond his prime.

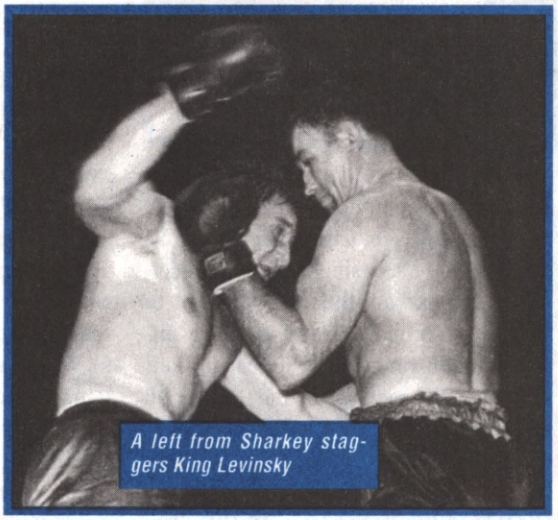


28

JACK SHARKEY

Years Fought: January 29, 1924-August 18, 1936
Record: 38-13-3 (14)

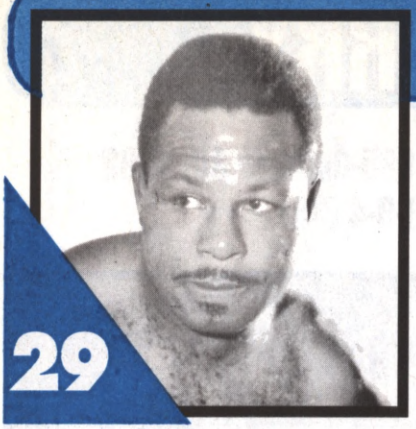
Career Capsule: Began pro career in 1924 with victory over Billy Muldoon (KO 1) ... Suffered first loss against Eddie Record (L 10) in '24 ... Avenged loss (KO 7) the next month ... Beat Harry Wills (W Disq. 13) in '26 ... Topped Tommy Loughran (KO 3) in '29 for vacant American heavyweight title ... Lost via disqualification to Max Schmeling (L Disq. 4) in '30 bout for the vacant world title; only time the heavyweight championship has changed hands on a foul ... Held to a 15-round draw by former middleweight champ Mickey Walker in '31 ... Beat Schmeling (W 15) in '32 in rematch for heavy title ... Lost title to Primo Carnera (KO by 6) in '33 in first defense ... Retired in '36 after loss to Joe Louis (KO by 3) ... Other top fighters he beat: Johnny Risko, Young Stribling, Mike McTigue, George Godfrey, Jack Delaney.



A left from Sharkey staggers King Levinsky

Why He's Rated Where He's Rated: Hard hitter with a potent left hook and quality ring skills ... Faced 11 men who were, had been, or would be world champions ... Only man to face both Jack Dempsey (KO by 7) and Joe Louis (KO by 3) ... One of the dirtiest fighters in heavyweight history, lifted Schmeling off the canvas with uppercut to groin ... Won three fights by disqualification ... Rumored to have taken dive against Carnera.

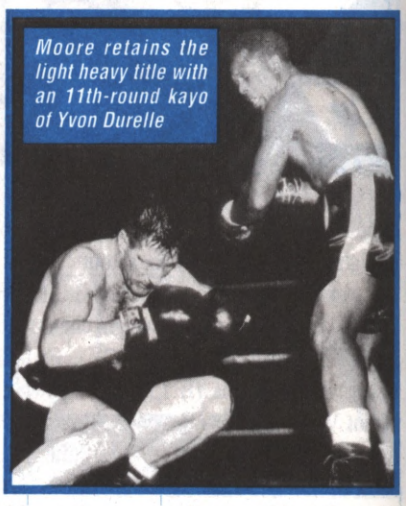
ARCHIE MOORE



Years Fought: January 31, 1936-March 15, 1963
Record: 183-24-10 (131) with 1 no-contest

Career Capsule: Amazingly, shut out of the title picture until his 170th pro fight, when he won the light heavyweight crown with a 15-round decision over Joey Maxim in 1952 ... Never lost the 175-pound title in the ring, but was stripped in '62 after eight successful title defenses ... Had difficulty making light heavyweight limit during second half of career, and frequently fought as a heavyweight ... Twice challenged unsuccessfully for the heavyweight title, losing to Rocky Marciano (KO by 9) in '55 and Floyd Patterson (KO by 5) in '56 ... Had Marciano down before succumbing to "The Rock's" physical strength and punching power ... Beat such notable heavyweights as Nino Valdes (W 10, W 15) Bert Whitehurst (KO 6), Alejandro Lavorante (KO 10), Bob Satterfield (KO 3), and Pete Rademacher (KO 6) ... Was stopped by Muhammad Ali in Ali's 15th pro fight ... Other top fighters he beat: Harold Johnson, Jimmy Bivins, Bobo Olson, Eddie Cotton, Holman Williams, Curtis Sheppard, Yvon Durelle, Yolande Pompey, Lloyd Marshall, Jack Chase.

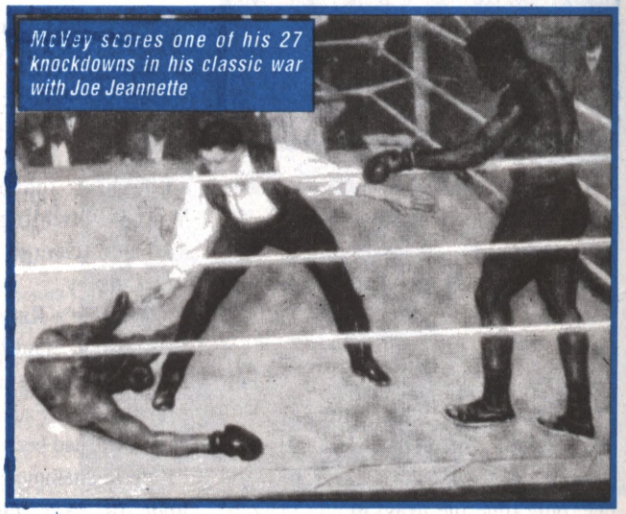
Why He's Rated Where He's Rated: Punching power and ring smarts allowed him to beat most heavyweights he faced ... Maybe the greatest light heavyweight ever, but couldn't quite capture the heavyweight title ... Age, more than anything else, was the cause of downfall against Marciano and Patterson.


Moore retains the light heavy title with an 11th-round kayo of Yvon Durelle

SAM McVEY

Years Fought: April 12, 1902-March 15, 1921
Record: 59-13-8 (46) with 10 no-decisions, 2 no-contests

Career Capsule: Challenged Jack Johnson for something billed as "The Black Heavyweight Championship" in his eighth pro fight, losing a 20-round decision ... Lost another 20-rounder to Johnson seven months later, and then suffered a 20th-round kayo defeat in their third and final meeting ... Laid off for all of 1905, then won 35 of his next 40 fights, 32 by knockout ... Among his victims during this period were Denver Ed Martin (KO 16), Joe Jeannette (W 20), Jim Johnson (KO 21), and Sam Langford (W 20) ... Started to slip a bit after back-to-back knockout losses to Langford (KO by 11, KO by 13) in 1912, but still had enough left to beat Harry Wills (W 20) in 1913 ... Fought exclusively in Panama in 1917, winning three of four bouts ... Took a year off after suffering a fifth-round knockout loss to Wills in 1919 ... Launched comeback in '20, but never regained his old form, and retired for good after a six-round no-contest with Jack Thompson the next year ... Other top fighters he beat: Jim Barry, Al Kubiak, Colin Bell, Sandy Ferguson, Jeff Clarke.

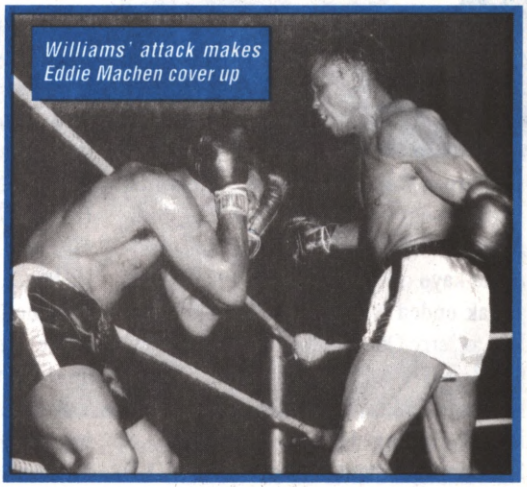

McVay scores one of his 27 knockdowns in his classic war with Joe Jeannette

Why He's Rated Where He's Rated: Like Langford, Jeannette, and Wills, another vastly accomplished black fighter who was held back by racial prejudice.

CLEVELAND WILLIAMS

31

Years Fought: December 11, 1951-November 14, 1966
Record: 65-6-1 (51)

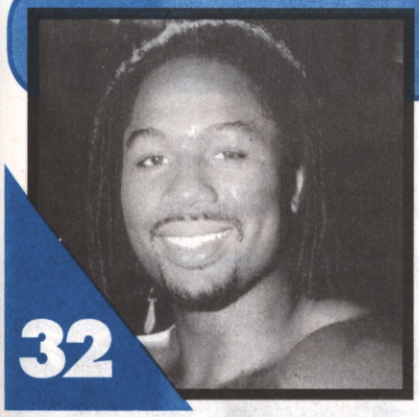


Williams' attack makes Eddie Machen cover up

Career Capsule: Won 27 straight to start career, 23 via knockout ... Knocked out by Bob Satterfield in 1954, took a year off, then came back to win 12 in a row before losing to Sonny Liston (KO by 3) in '59 ... Lost to Liston again (KO by 2) the following year ... Rebounded by winning 16 of his next 20 bouts, including victories over contenders Wayne Bethea (W 10), Ernie Terrell (KO 7), and Alex Miteff (KO 5) ... Also fought a 10-round draw with highly rated Eddie Machen in '62 ... Inactive throughout '65 after suffering gunshot wounds ... Was never the same again after shooting incident, but reputation and four-bout winning streak led to title shot against Muhammad Ali (KO by 3) in '66 ... Other top fighters he beat: Sonny Banks, Dick Richardson, Alonzo Johnson, Roger Rischer, Billy Daniels.

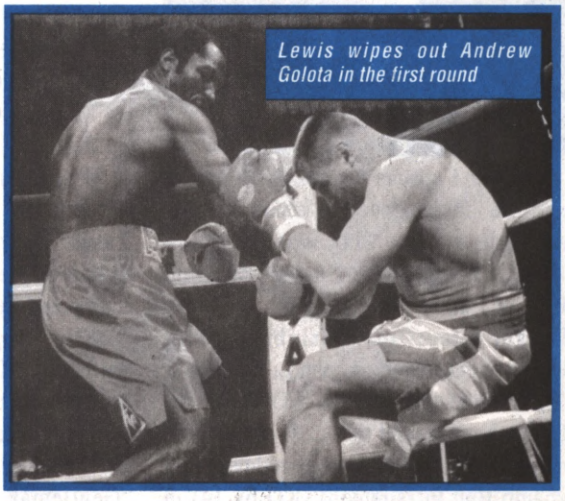
Why He's Rated Where He's Rated: In his prime, vicious punching power was enough to beat anybody except future Hall of Famer Liston ... Take-no-prisoners style made him open for counters, but extremely popular with fans ... Unlucky to be at his best when reigning champion Patterson was ducking leading challengers ... Pretty much washed-up by the time he fought Ali.

LENNOX LEWIS



32

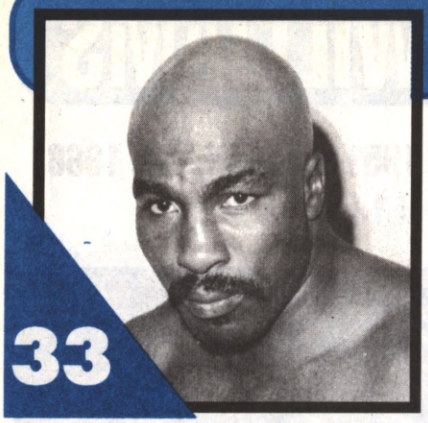
Years Fought: June 27, 1989-present
Record: 33-1 (27)



Lewis wipes out Andrew Golota in the first round

Career Capsule: Won heavyweight gold in 1988 Olympics with kayo of Riddick Bowe ... Turned pro with victory over Al Malcolm (KO 2) in '89 ... Won European title in '90 against Jean Chanet (KO 6) ... Captured British Commonwealth title in '92 by beating Derek Williams (KO 6) ... Named WBC champion after victory over Razor Ruddock (KO 2) in '92 ... Made three successful defenses before losing title to Oliver McCall (KO by 2) in upset in '94 ... Became two-time champ in '97 by winning vacant WBC title against McCall (KO 5) ... Defended title twice in '97, becoming the first man to beat Henry Akinwande (W Disq. 5) and the first to knock out Andrew Golota (KO 1) ... Made third successful defense in '98, defeating Shannon Briggs (KO 5) ... Other top fighters he beat: Mike Weaver, Tony Tucker, Frank Bruno, Tommy Morrison, Ray Mercer.

Why He's Rated Where He's Rated: Devastating right hand ... Good lateral movement for 6'5", 245-pound man ... Crushed Ruddock with chilling power ... Historical standing still a question mark because he's failed to secure a career-defining fight against Evander Holyfield, Mike Tyson, or Bowe ... Loss to McCall stains achievements ... Struggled in wins over Mercer and Briggs ... Suspect chin and defense ... Considered by many a one-handed fighter.

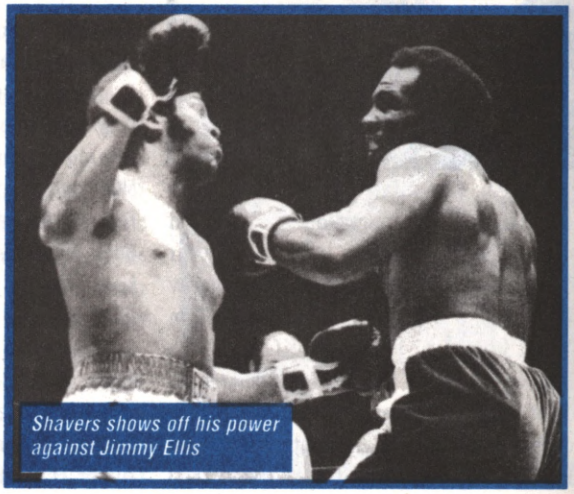


33

EARNIE SHAVERS

Years Fought: November 6, 1969-November 28, 1995
Record: 72-13-1 (67)

Career Capsule: Won 45 of his first 47 pro bouts (44 via kayo), including third-round kayo of Jimmy Young and first-round kayo of Jimmy Ellis in 1973 ... Hot streak ended with first-round knockout loss to Jerry Quarry, also in '73 ... Beaten by Ron Lyle (KO by 6) in '75 ... Challenged Muhammad Ali for world title in '77, losing 15-round decision ... Sensational blastout of Ken Norton (KO 1) earned him crack at WBC champ Larry Holmes in '79 ... Holmes came off the floor to retain title via 11th-round TKO ... Career sputtered in late-'70s and early-'80s when he beat the likes of Jeff Sims (KO 4) and Joe Bugner (KO 2), but lost to Tex Cobb (KO by 8), Bernardo Mercardo (KO by 7), James Tillis (L 10), and Walter Santemore (L 10) ... Retired in '87, but launched comeback in '95 at the age of 50 ... Retired again after loss to Brian Yates (KO by 2) ... Other top fighters he beat: Vincente Rondon, Henry Clark, Roy Williams.



Shavers shows off his power against Jimmy Ellis

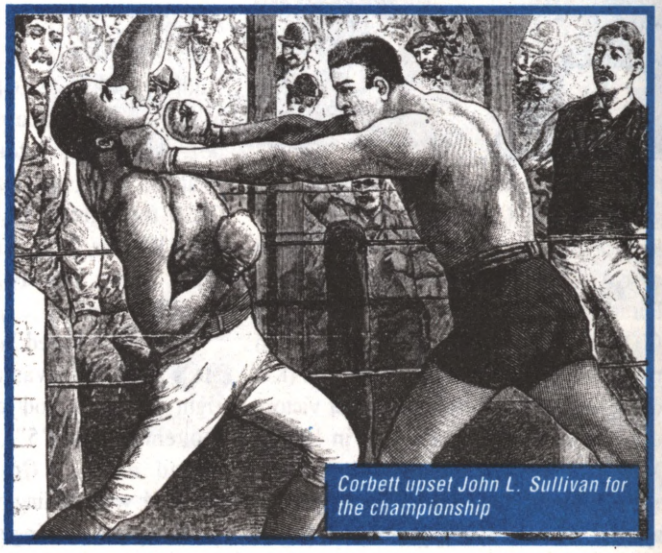
Why He's Rated Where He's Rated: Perhaps the hardest single-shot puncher in heavyweight history ... Plodding style, lack of stamina, and a brittle chin limited his achievements.

34

JIM CORBETT

Years Fought: 1886-August 14, 1903
Record: 20-5-5 (12) with 1 no-contest

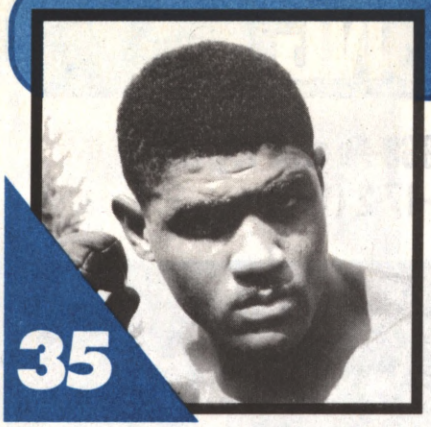
Career Capsule: Turned pro at age 20 ... Rose to prominence by winning a classic battle with Joe Choynski (KO 27) in 1889 ... Fought to a 61-round draw with Hall of Famer Peter Jackson in '91 ... Fought a four-round exhibition with heavyweight champion John L. Sullivan in '91 ... Defeated Sullivan (KO 21) in '92 for the heavyweight title ... In second title defense, lost belt to former middleweight champ Bob Fitzsimmons (KO by 14) in '97 ... Received two chances to regain title, losing both times to former sparring partner James J. Jeffries (KO by 23, KO by 10), and retired in 1903 after second loss to Jeffries ... Other top fighters he beat: Jake Kilrain, Charley Mitchell, Charles "Kid" McCoy.



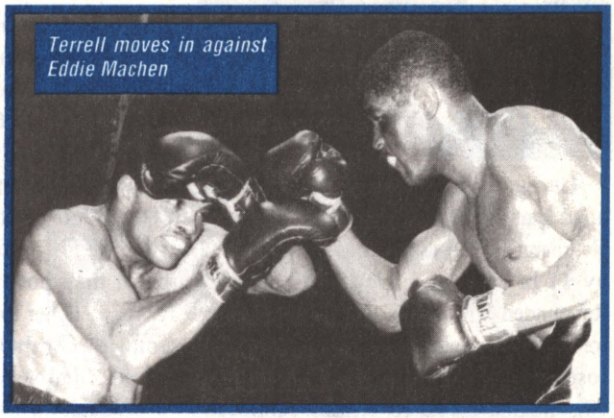
Corbett upset John L. Sullivan for the championship

Why He's Rated Where He's Rated: Only man to defeat the legendary and tremendously popular Sullivan ... Changed the audience of the fight game with his wholesome "Gentleman Jim" image ... An excellent, tricky boxer with good mobility ... Only defended title twice in five years as champion ... Frequently kayoed late in his career ... Focused a great deal of his attention on theatrical pursuits instead of boxing.

ERNIE TERRELL



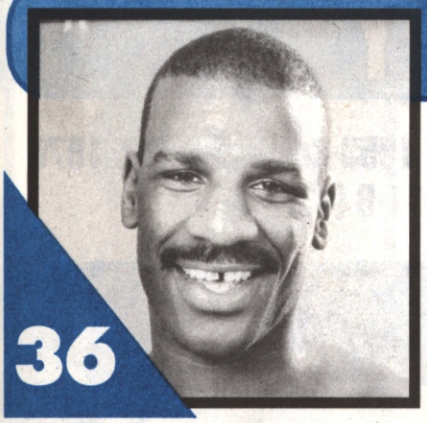
Years Fought: May 15, 1957-September 10, 1973
Record: 46-9 (21)


Terrell moves in against Eddie Machen

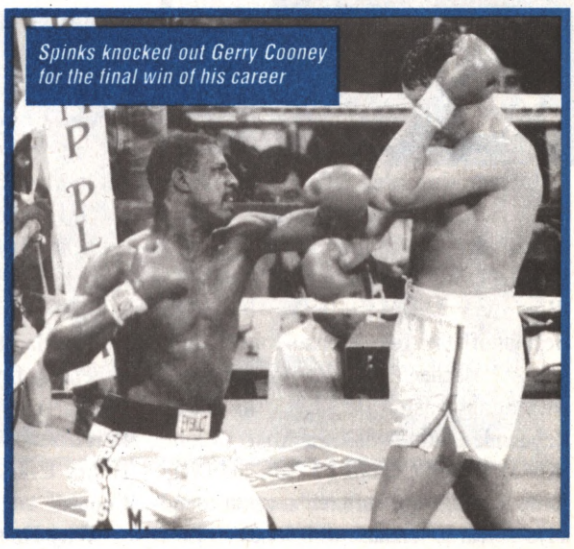
Career Capsule: Won 24 of first 28 pro bouts ... Bounced back from loss to Cleveland Williams (KO by 7) in 1962 to outpoint "Big Cat" the following year ... Continued to climb the ratings with wins over Zora Folley (W 10) and Bob Foster (KO 7) ... Was matched with Eddie Machen for the vacant WBA title in '65, winning the belt via 15-round decision ... Defended the WBA title against George Chuvalo (W 15) and Doug Jones (W 15), setting up a unification with world champ Muhammad Ali in '67 ... Was soundly outpointed by Ali in a match best remembered for Ali's distasteful taunting; many felt Ali could have scored a stoppage, but preferred to punish his opponent instead ... Never really recovered from the Ali beating, and was inactive in '68 and '69 ... Lost highly controversial decision to Chuck Wepner in '73 ... Retired after Jeff Merritt iced him in one round later the same year ... Other top fighters he beat: Young Jack Johnson, Amos Lincoln.

Why He's Rated Where He's Rated: Height (6'6"), reach (82"), and jab-and-grab tactics made his style a nightmare for most opponents (and fans) ... Unassertive attitude and lack of big punch held him back.

MICHAEL SPINKS

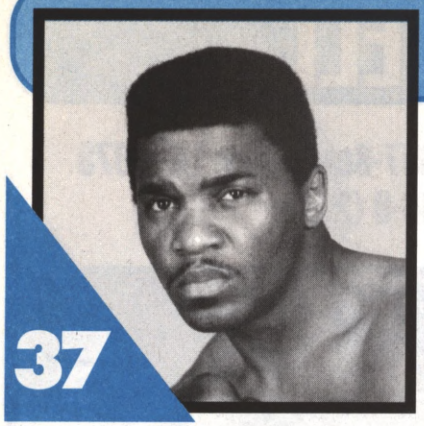


Years Fought: April 17, 1977-June 27, 1988
Record: 31-1 (21)


Spinks knocked out Gerry Cooney for the final win of his career

Career Capsule: Won gold medal as a middleweight at 1976 Olympics ... Defeated Eddie Mustafa Muhammad (W 15) for WBA light heavyweight title in '81 ... Unified light heavy championship by outboxing Dwight Muhammad Qawi (W 15) in '83 ... Made 10 defenses as 175-pound champ before moving up to heavyweight ... Upset previously unbeaten champion Larry Holmes (W 15) for IBF heavyweight title in '85 ... Proved it was no fluke by eking out another 15-round points win over Holmes in '86 ... Made one defense of the title before being stripped for opting not to defend against Tony Tucker ... Blown out in 91 seconds by world heavyweight champion Mike Tyson in '88 ... Retired after suffering only pro loss ... Other top fighters he beat: Yaqui Lopez, Marvin Johnson, Vonzell Johnson, John Celestine, Eddie Davis, Gerry Cooney.

Why He's Rated Where He's Rated: First light heavyweight champion to win heavyweight title ... Defeated the great Holmes twice despite giving away more than 20 pounds ... Remembered fondly for being a true class act ... Retired before his skills could decline, and stayed retired ... At heavyweight, accomplished very little besides wins over Holmes ... Quick loss to Tyson was a major disappointment.

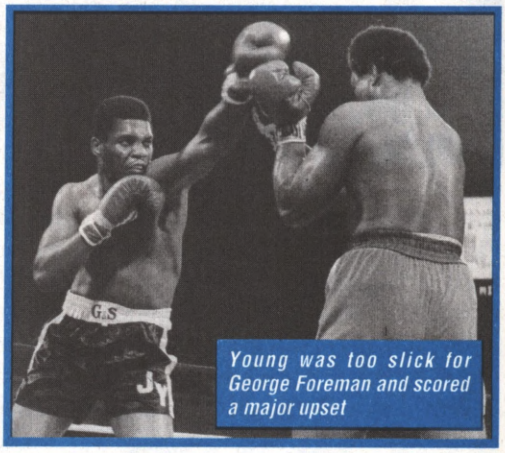


37

JIMMY YOUNG

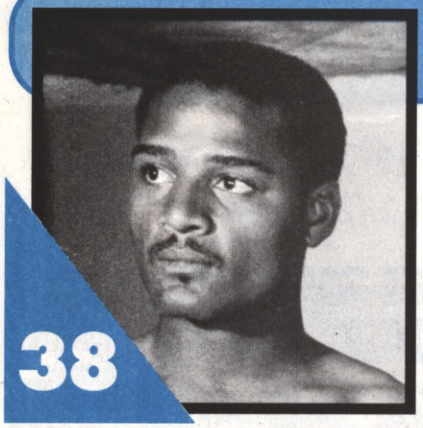
Years Fought: June 1969-August 13, 1988
Record: 34-17-2 (11)

Career Capsule: Thrown in over his head early in career, losing to Randy Neumann (L 10) and Earnie Shavers (KO by 1) in 10th and 11th pro bouts ... Rebounded with series of impressive performances against Richard Dunn (KO 8), Jose Luis Garcia (W 10), Ron Lyle (W 10), and Shavers (D 10) ... Lost controversial 15-round decision to Muhammad Ali in 1976 ... Beat Lyle (W 12) again later in '76 ... Upset George Foreman (W 12) in '77, sending the former heavyweight champ into a 10-year retirement ... Career gradually went downhill after losing close 15-round decision to Ken Norton ... Suffered cut-eye TKO defeat to Gerry Cooney in '80 ... Was undefeated in five bouts in '81, but loss to Greg Page (L 12) in '82 ended contender status ... Continued fighting, losing more often than not, for several more years ... Other top fighters he beat: John L. Gardner, Jody Ballard, Marvin Stinson.



Young was too slick for George Foreman and scored a major upset

Why He's Rated Where He's Rated: Excellent defensive skills enabled him to beat such outstanding fighters as Foreman and Lyle when they were in their prime ... Might have beaten Ali if he hadn't resorted to sticking his head outside of the ropes on the few occasions Ali mounted an attack ... Accurate but modest puncher ... Inconsistent ... Defensive style alienated fans.

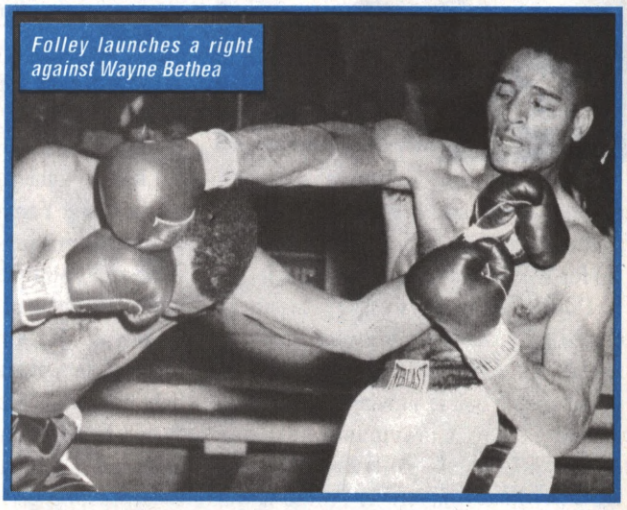


38

ZORA FOLLEY

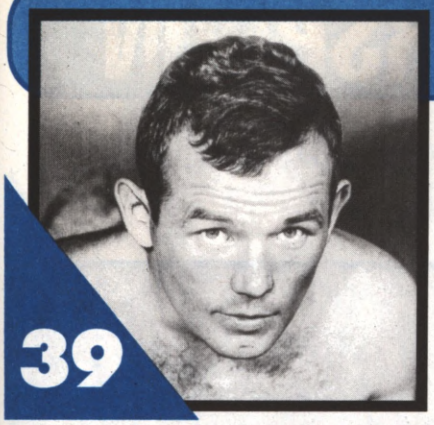
Years Fought: September 22, 1953-September 29, 1970
Record: 79-11-6 (43)

Career Capsule: Won 19 of first 20 bouts ... Beat Joe Bygraves (KO 9), drew with Eddie Machen, and lost to Henry Cooper (L 10) in important 1958 fights ... Wins over Alex Miteff (W 10), Willi Besmanoff (W 10), Alonzo Johnson (W 10), and Machen (W 12) led to showdown with Sonny Liston (KO by 3) in '60 ... Rebounded with wins over Mike DeJohn (KO 3), Robert Cleroux (W 10), and Doug Jones (W 10), but suffered seventh-round kayo defeat in rematch with Jones ... Lost to Ernie Terrell (L 10) in '63, then put together a string of impressive wins over George Chuvalo (W 10), Oscar Bonavena (W 10), and Bob Foster (W 10) ... Received lone title shot in '67, losing via seventh-round knockout to Muhammad Ali ... Only won five of his next 10 bouts, and retired in '70 following one-round kayo loss to Mac Foster ... Other top fighters he beat: Nino Valdes, Pete Rademacher, Henry Clark, Henry Cooper.



Folley launches a right against Wayne Bethea

Why He's Rated Where He's Rated: A superior mechanic who punched hard enough to keep opponents honest ... Shut out of the title picture during the reign of Floyd Patterson ... Lack of killer instinct and weak chin (six of his 11 losses came inside the distance) prevented him from accomplishing more.

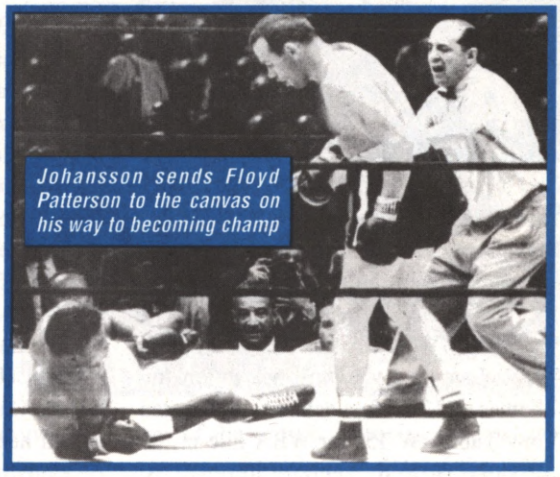


39

INGEMAR JOHANSSON

Years Fought: December 5, 1952-April 21, 1963
Record: 26-2 (17)

Career Capsule: Finished second at heavyweight in 1952 Olympics, but was denied a silver medal because Olympic committee felt he didn't try in finals ... Defeated Franco Cavicchi (KO 13) for European title in '56, and made two successful defenses ... Upset Floyd Patterson (KO 3) for world heavyweight title in '59, knocking down the champion seven times ... Lost title in first defense, a rematch with Patterson (KO by 5) in '60 ... In rubber match, knocked Patterson down twice in the first round, but ended up losing title bid by sixth-round kayo in '61 ... Regained European title by beating Dick Richardson (KO 8) in '62 ... Retired after beating Brian London (W 12) in '63, a fight in which Johansson was knocked cold but saved by the bell ... Other top fighters he beat: Henry Cooper, Joe Erskine, Eddie Machen.



Johansson sends Floyd Patterson to the canvas on his way to becoming champ

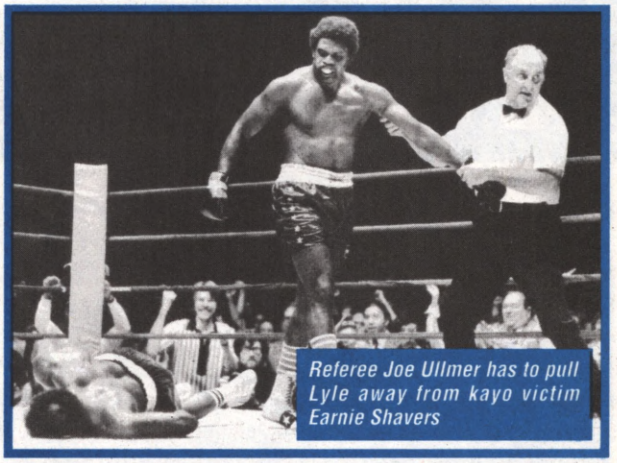
Why He's Rated Where He's Rated: Used tremendous right-hand power to score early knockouts in some of his biggest bouts ... Handsome, charismatic champion who was very popular—especially in his native Sweden ... Never lost to anyone other than Patterson ... Never made a successful title defense ... Relatively short career ... THE RING Fighter of the Year: 1958, '59.

40

RON LYLE

Years Fought: April 23, 1971-August 18, 1995
Record: 44-7-1 (31)

Career Capsule: Got off to a very late start, turning pro at age 29 after spending 7½ years in jail for second-degree murder ... Denver powerhouse started career 19-0 (17) before suffering first loss against Jerry Quarry (L 12) in 1973 ... Received the only world title shot of his career in '75, losing to Muhammad Ali (KO by 11) ... Bounced back with knockout of powerhitter Earnie Shavers (KO 6) later that year ... Lost the fight he'll forever be remembered for, a wild see-saw affair against George Foreman (KO by 5) in '76 in which both men were knocked down twice ... Retired after being blown out by Gerry Cooney (KO by 1) in '80 ... Made an improbable comeback in '95 at the age of 53, knocking out four straight suspect opponents before retiring again ... Other top fighters he beat: Manuel Ramos, Buster Mathis, Jose Luis Garcia, Oscar Bonavena, Jimmy Ellis, Joe Bugner, Scott LeDoux.



Referee Joe Ullmer has to pull Lyle away from kayo victim Earnie Shavers

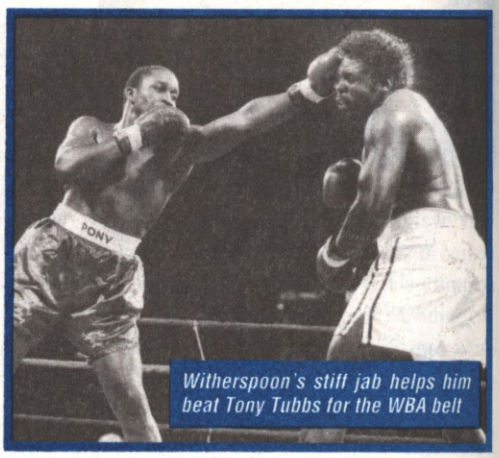
Why He's Rated Where He's Rated: Primarily because of unforgettable RING Fight of the Year against Foreman, who was still considered *almost* unbeatable at the time ... Excellent brawler, but not much of a boxer ... Made a relatively successful comeback in excellent physical condition at a very advanced age ... Though he beat many of the best heavyweights of his time, lost his biggest fights and never held a title ... Had a shaky chin and poor stamina.

41

TIM WITHERSPOON

Years Fought: October 30, 1979-present
Record: 46-7 (31)

Career Capsule: After only seven amateur fights, got off to a 15-0 (11) start as a pro ... Suffered first loss in '83, a 12-round split decision to Larry Holmes for the WBC heavyweight title ... Defeated Greg Page (W 12) for vacant WBC title in '84 ... Later that year, lost belt to Pinklon Thomas (L 12) in first defense ... Defeated Tony Tubbs (W 15) for WBA title in '86 ... Lost title in second defense to Bonecrusher Smith (KO by 1) in '86 ... Didn't fight for two years from '92 to '94 due to legal troubles with promoter Don King ... Back-to-back decision losses to Larry Donald and Jimmy Thunder have led many to call for his retirement ... At press time, 40-year-old 'Spoon scheduled to fight Andrew Golota in Poland in last-chance situation ... Other top fighters he beat: Marvin Stinson, Renaldo Snipes, James Tillis, Bonecrusher Smith, Frank Bruno, Carl Williams, Al Cole.



Witherspoon's stiff jab helps him beat Tony Tubbs for the WBA belt

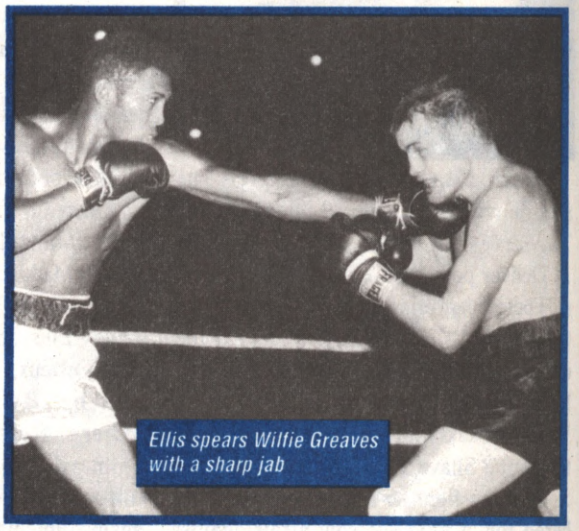
Why He's Rated Where He's Rated: One of only eight fighters to win heavyweight crown twice ... Known for scoring knockouts with awesome overhand right ... Impressive longevity, remained a top contender almost into 40s ... Only made one successful title defense in two title reigns ... '92 loss to journeyman "Bigfoot" Martin a huge stain on record ... Faced very little real opposition from '87 to '95.

42

JIMMY ELLIS

Years Fought: April 19, 1961-May 7, 1975
Record: 40-12-1 (24)

Career Capsule: Debuted as middleweight against Arley Seifer (KO 3) in 1961 ... Suffered first defeat to Holly Mims (L 10) in '61 ... Endured harsh '64, losing three of four ... Jumped to heavyweight in '65, winning against Joe Blackwood (KO 1) ... Fought exhibitions against exiled former champ Muhammad Ali during '65 ... Won WBA elimination tournament with upset victories over Leotis Martin (KO 9) and Oscar Bonavena (W 12) ... Won vacant WBA title over Jerry Quarry (W 15) in '68 ... Beat former champ Floyd Patterson (W 15) with lackluster performance in first title defense ... Inactive in '69 ... Lost WBA title in '70 to Joe Frazier (KO by 5) ... Lost in '71 to Ali (KO by 12) for vacant NABF heavy title ... Winless in five of last six bouts ... Retired in '75 after victory over Carl Baker (KO 1) ... Other top fighters he beat: Johnny Persol, George Chuvalo, Tony Doyle.



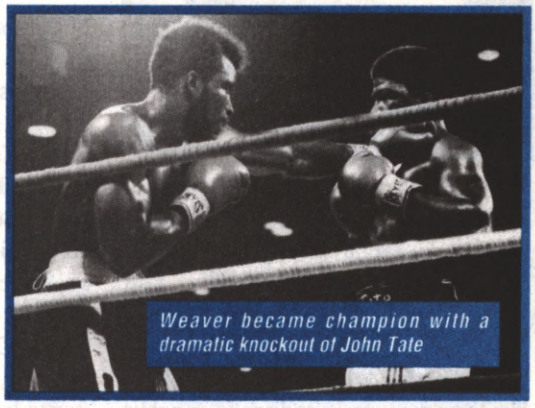
Ellis spears Willie Greaves with a sharp jab

Why He's Rated Where He's Rated: A crafty boxer with quick hands and sharp jab ... Hampered by relatively small size ... Entered heavy picture during an era saturated with talent ... Floored only once as a pro prior to Frazier title fight ... Lacked punching power to stay with Frazier, Ali, and Earnie Shavers, all of whom knocked him out.

MIKE WEAVER

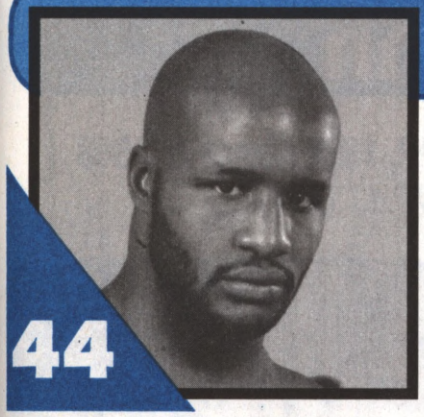
Years Fought: September 14, 1972-present
Record: 41-17-1 (28)

Career Capsule: Despite a mediocre 19-8 (13) start to his pro career, received a shot a WBC heavyweight champion Larry Holmes (KO by 12) in '79 and proved himself with a gritty performance ... Upset John Tate (KO 15) for WBA title in '80, scoring a dramatic kayo with just 45 seconds left on the clock ... Lost title to Michael Dokes (KO by 1) in '82, but most believed the referee's stoppage was uncalled for ... Fought to 15-round draw in '83 rematch with Dokes ... Lost to Pinklon Thomas (KO by 8) in '85 bid for WBC title ... Lost most of his remaining significant fights, against the likes of Bonecrusher Smith (KO by 1), Razor Ruddock (L 10), and Lennox Lewis (KO by 6) ... Most recent fight an August '98 loss to Melvin Foster (KO by 9) ... Other top fighters he beat: Scott LeDoux, Gerrie Coetzee, James Tillis, Carl Williams, Bert Cooper.


Weaver became champion with a dramatic knockout of John Tate

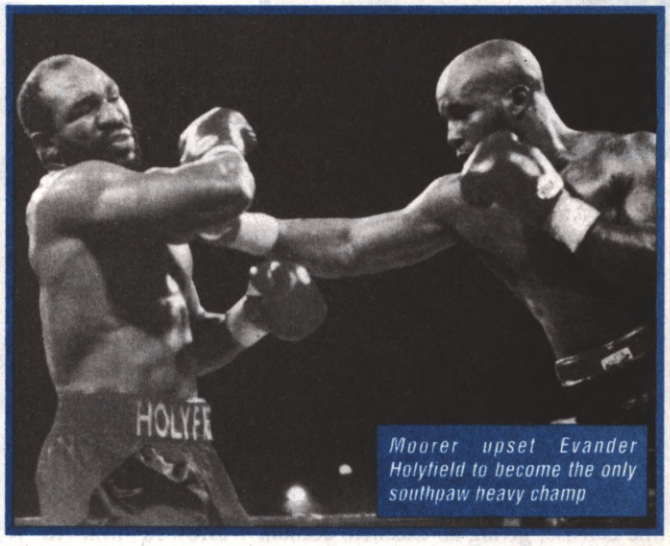
Why He's Rated Where He's Rated: Generally considered among the toughest heavyweight champs ever ... Victory over Tate stands up as one of the most dramatic finishes in history ... Controversial first loss to Dokes actually increased his popularity ... Had one of the ugliest career records of any heavyweight champ ... One of the worst defensive fighters ever to hold the title ... Defended infrequently during reign, just three times in nearly three years.

MICHAEL MOORER



Years Fought: March 4, 1988-present
Record: 39-2 (31)

Career Capsule: Won U.S. national junior middleweight championship in 1986 ... Began pro career against Adrian Riggs (KO 1) in '88 ... Won first 22 fights by kayo as light heavyweight, the moved up to heavyweight in '91 ... Won WBA and IBF heavy titles in '94 by beating Evander Holyfield (W 12), becoming first southpaw heavyweight champ ... Lost title in '94 to George Foreman (KO by 10) in first title defense ... Won vacant IBF title against Axel Schulz (W 12) in '96 ... Defended title in '96 against Frans Botha (KO 12) ... Beat Vaughn Bean (W 12) in second title defense ... Lost WBA and IBF titles in '97 to Holyfield (KO by 8) ... Other top fighters he beat: Leslie Stewart, Ramzi Hassan, Alex Stewart, Bert Cooper.



Moorer upset Evander Holyfield to become the only southpaw heavy champ

Why He's Rated Where's He's Rated: Beat Holyfield ... Formidable combination of southpaw stance, solid boxing skills, and powerful right hand ... Had great killer instinct as light heavy ... Good bodypuncher ... Dispelled notion that he lacked heart by rising from five knockdowns in '97 loss to Holyfield ... Brittle chin against heavyweights ... Inconsistent performer.

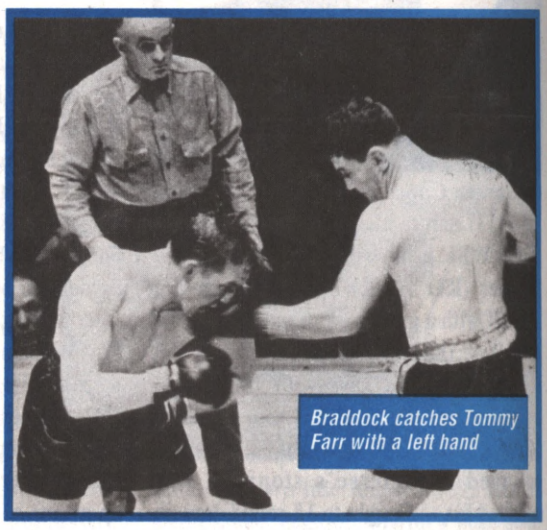
45

JIM BRADDOCK

Years Fought: April 14, 1926-January 21, 1938
Record: 51-23-3 (27) with 8 no-decisions, 2 no-contests

Career Capsule: Started at 17 as amateur middleweight ... Made pro debut as light heavyweight with four-round no-decision against Al Settle in 1926 ... Lost to Tommy Loughran (L 15) for light heavy title in '29 ... Suffered spell in '33 of four debilitating losses ... Fading career forced him to work on docks and apply for public relief ... Returned to ring against Corn Griffin (KO 3) ... Beat John Henry Lewis (W 10) in '34 ... Was a 10-1 underdog when he pulled off stunning victory in '34 over Max Baer (W 15) to win heavy title ... Did not defend title for two years ... Lost belt in '37 to Joe Louis (KO by 8) in first defense ... Retired in '38 after upset of Tommy Farr (W 10).

Why He's Rated Where He's Rated: Became boxing's "Cinderella Man" for upset over Baer, who broke his right thumb during the fight ... Determination made him one of best comeback stories in boxing history ... Lost to every major contender he faced ... Checkered career marked by defeats to mediocre fighters in '33 ... Considered among weakest heavyweight champs ever ... Remembered more today as the man Louis beat for the title.



Braddock catches Tommy Farr with a left hand

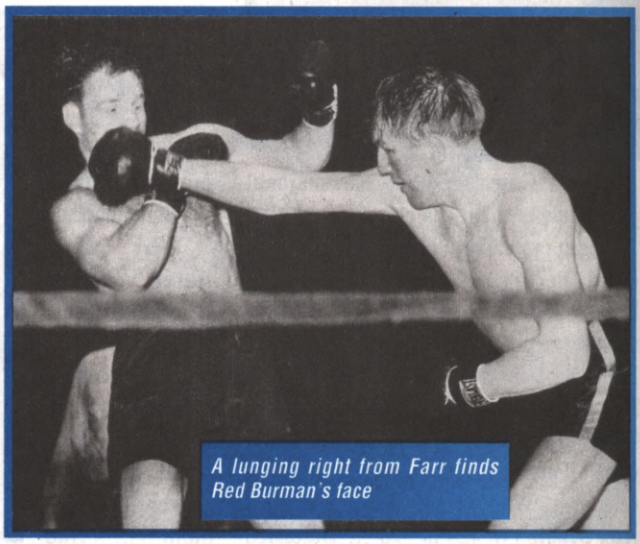
46

TOMMY FARR

Years Fought: December 18, 1926-March 9, 1953
Record: 71-22-11 (23)

Career Capsule: Began as light heavy, winning both Welsh and British 175-pound titles ... Captured Welsh heavyweight crown in 1936 and British Empire heavyweight title in '37 ... Outstanding run that included victories over Tommy Loughran (W 10), Ben Foord (W 15), Max Baer (W 12), and Walter Nuesal (KO 3) led to a world title shot against Joe Louis in August '37 ... Extended Louis the entire 15 rounds in "The Brown Bomber's" first title defense, giving an excellent account of himself ... Retired in '40, but returned to the ring 10 years later ... Regained Welsh heavyweight title in '51 ... Won 11 of 16 comeback fights, but retired for good in '53 after suffering seventh-round knockout to Don Cockell ... Other top fighters he beat: Randy Jones, Larry Gains, Red Burman.

Why He's Rated Where He's Rated: A master craftsman whose speed, durability, and boxing skills allowed him to overcome relatively small size and lack of a big punch ... Wonderful performance against prime-time Louis came as a shock to American media and fans ... Best British heavyweight of the '30s, but never won a fight in the United States.



A lunging right from Farr finds Red Burman's face

47

TOMMY BURNS

Years Fought: 1900-July 16, 1920
Record: 46-5-8 (37)

Career Capsule: Polished boxing skills in mining camps ... Started professionally as a lightweight in 1900 ... Won Michigan State middleweight title in '02 over Tom McCune (KO 7) ... Defended title successfully three times ... First loss came in '04 against Philadelphia Jack O'Brien (L 6) as light heavy ... Beat Marvin Hart (W 20) for heavy title in '06 ... Logged record for most consecutive defenses by knockout (8), and made 11 successful defenses in all ... Considered the first true world champ after boxing abroad in Australia, Ireland, France, and England ... Lost heavy title in '08 in famous bout against Jack Johnson (KO by 14) that broke color line ... Other top fighters he beat: Philadelphia Jack O'Brien, Jim Flynn, Bill Lang.

Why He's Rated Where He's Rated: Had fast hands, able to score by darting in and out against larger, slower fighters ... Possessed solid left hook ... Only Canadian to hold heavyweight title ... Shortest man to ever hold heavy title at 5'7" ... Helped by the color line, bypassing a number of qualified black fighters for title shot against Hart ... Overmatched against larger, faster, more skilled Johnson ... A forgotten, belittled champion viewed in disdain by contemporaries for loss to Johnson.

Burns retained the title with a 20-round win over Philadelphia Jack O'Brien

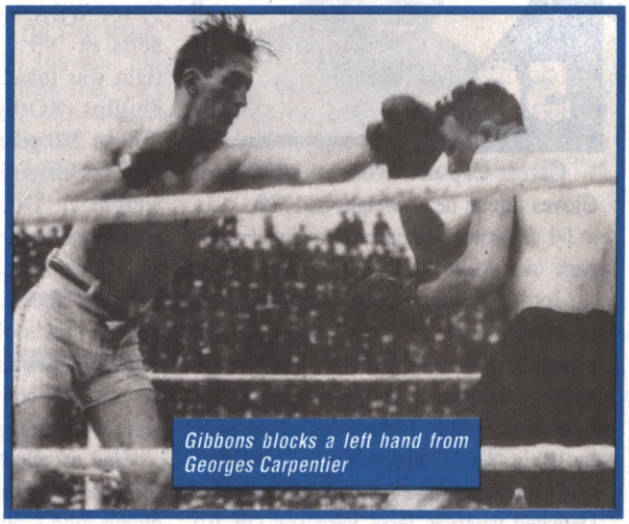
48

TOMMY GIBBONS

Years Fought: 57-4-1 (47) with 43 no-decisions, 1 no-contest
Record: September 5, 1911-June 5, 1925

Career Capsule: Turned pro as a welterweight, gradually adding weight and punching power as the years went by ... Battled Hall of Famer Harry Greb four times, losing one decision and fighting three no-decisions ... Won 21 of 25 bouts in 1921 via knockout, bolstering status as one of the top contenders for the heavyweight crown worn by Jack Dempsey ... Lost 15-round decision to Dempsey in '23, using speed and considerable skill to become the only one of "The Manassa Mauler's" challengers to go the distance until Dempsey lost the title to Gene Tunney two years later ... Went undefeated in next 12 bouts, but retired after Tunney scored 12th-round knockout in '25 ... Other top fighters he beat: Gus Christie, Billy Miske, Chuck Wiggins, Silent Martin, George Chip.

Why He's Rated Where He's Rated: Record is somewhat deceptive because so many bouts fought during the no-decision era, when rendering a decision was illegal in many states ... Received the "newspaper" decision in many no-decision bouts against such noteworthy fighters as Georges Carpentier, George "KO" Brown, and Battling Levinsky.



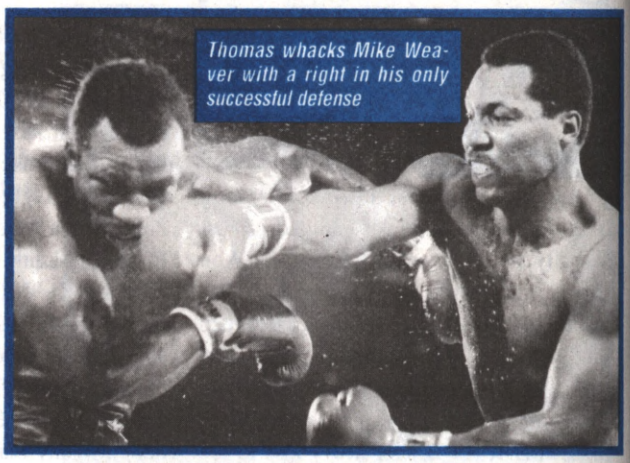
Gibbons blocks a left hand from Georges Carpentier

49

PINKLON THOMAS

Years Fought: August 29, 1978-January 29, 1993
Record: 43-7-1 (34)

Career Capsule: Won 24 of his first 25 pro bouts, with a 10-round draw with Gerrie Coetzee the only minor blemish ... Annexed the WBC heavyweight title in 1984, winning a 12-round decision over Tim Witherspoon ... Lone successful defense came against aging Mike Weaver (KO 8) ... Lost title to Trevor Berbick (L 12) in a major upset in '86 ... Trio of comeback kayos led to unsuccessful title shot against Mike Tyson (KO by 6) in '87 ... Skid continued with losses to Evander Holyfield (KO by 7), Mike Hunter (L 10), Riddick Bowe (KO by 9), and Tommy Morrison (KO by 1) ... Embarked on comeback in '92, winning 12 straight over minor opposition ... Retired after suffering seventh-round TKO loss to Poncho Carter in '93 ... Other top fighters he beat: James Tillis, Alfonzo Ratliff, Leroy Boone.



Thomas whacks Mike Weaver with a right in his only successful defense

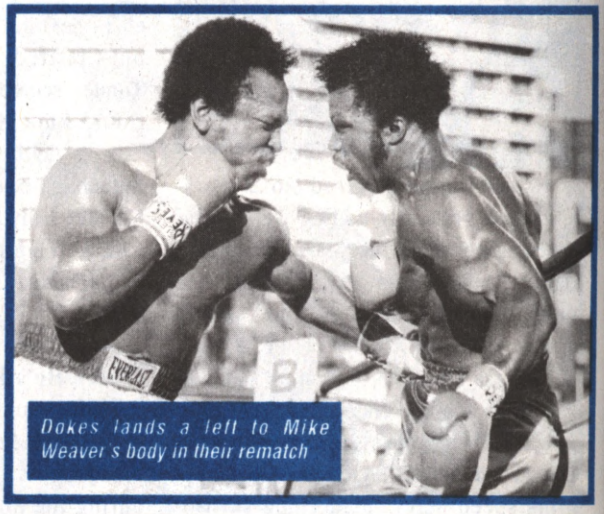
Why He's Rated Where He's Rated: Until cocaine addiction took hold, was considered the next great heavyweight ... Excellent lateral movement and hand speed ... Tight defense ... Outstanding left hand ... Mediocre right hand ... One of boxing's all-time could-have-beens.

50

MICHAEL DOKES

Years Fought: October 15, 1976-October 11, 1997
Record: 53-6-2 (34)

Career Capsule: Won national Golden Gloves title at heavyweight in 1976 ... As a 3-1 favorite, earned controversial stoppage over Mike Weaver in 63 seconds in '82 for WBA heavyweight title ... Held on to crown with 15-round draw in '83 rematch with Weaver, the first heavyweight title draw in 70 years ... Lost title in second defense to Gerrie Coetzee (KO by 10) in '83 ... Retired and unretired several times over the next decade-plus ... Defeated veterans Jesse Ferguson (W 10) and Jose Ribalta (W 10) in '92 to earn world title shot 10 years after losing title ... Blasted out by Riddick Bowe (KO by 1) for WBA and IBF belts in '93 ... Last fight was loss to Paul Phillips (KO by 2) in '97—at 280 pounds, 60 over his championship weight ... Other top fighters he beat: Jimmy Young, Ossie Ocasio.



Dokes lands a left to Mike Weaver's body in their rematch

Why He's Rated Where He's Rated: Both fights with Weaver, though controversial, were memorable ... Had excellent speed for a heavyweight, combining solid footwork with a quick jab and sharp combination punching ... Repeated drug problems and convictions kept him from realizing his full potential ... Never came close to escaping the shadow of concurrently reigning champ Larry Holmes ... Later comebacks plagued by weight problems. ■

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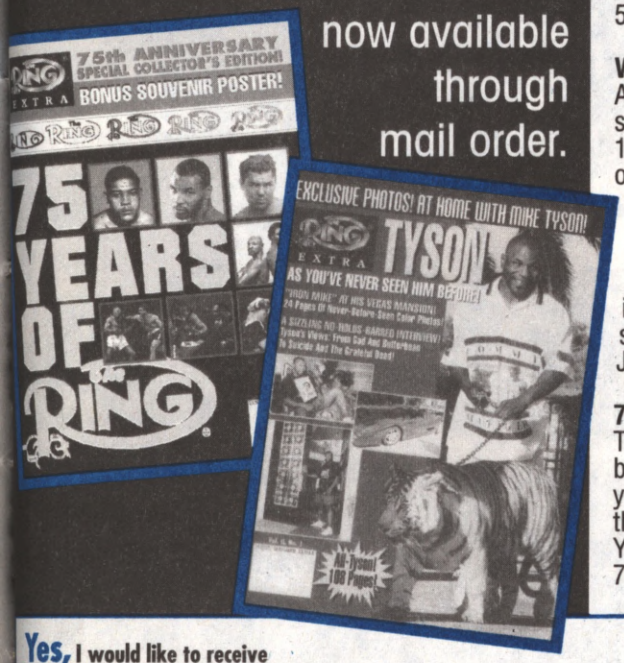

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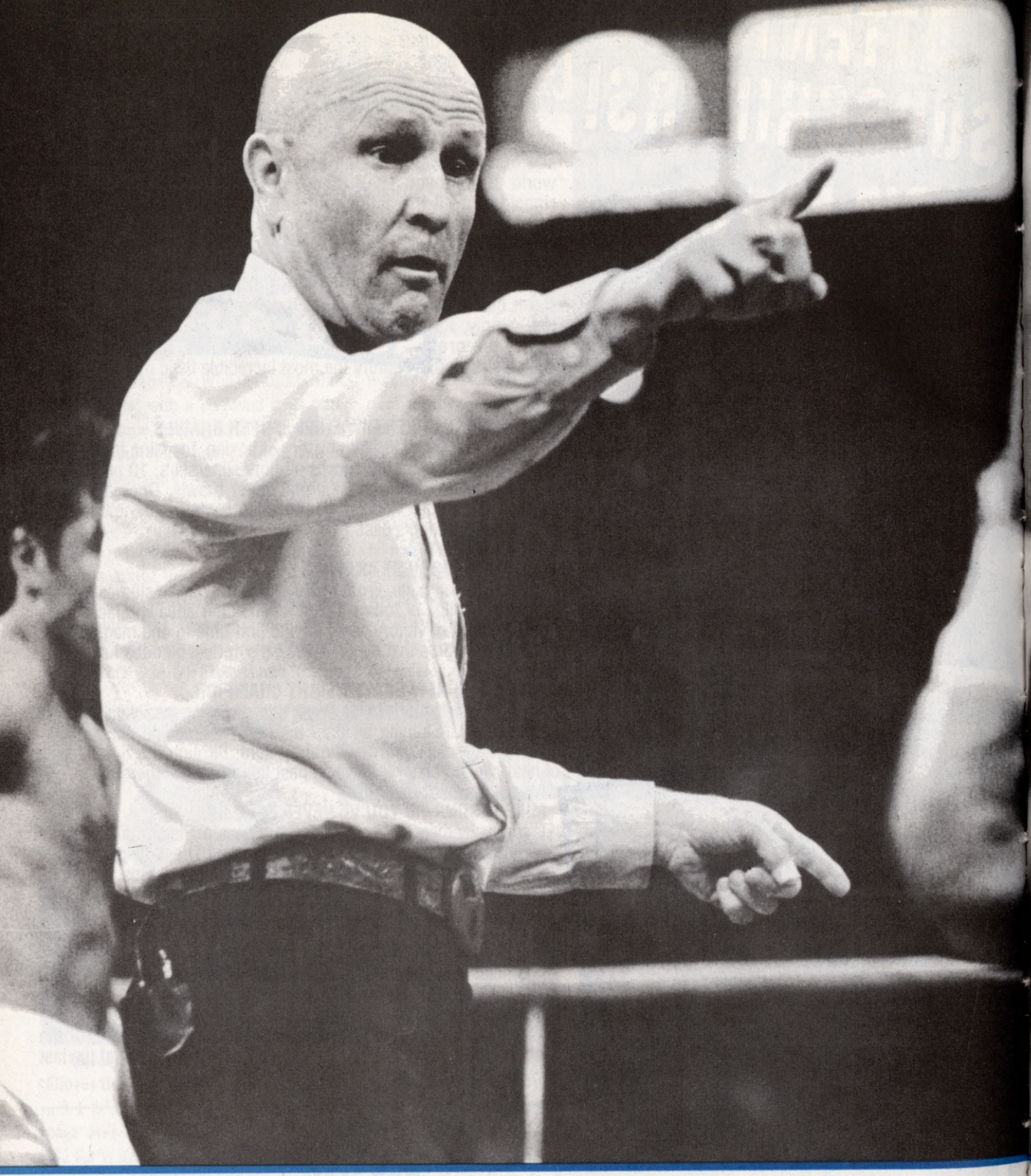

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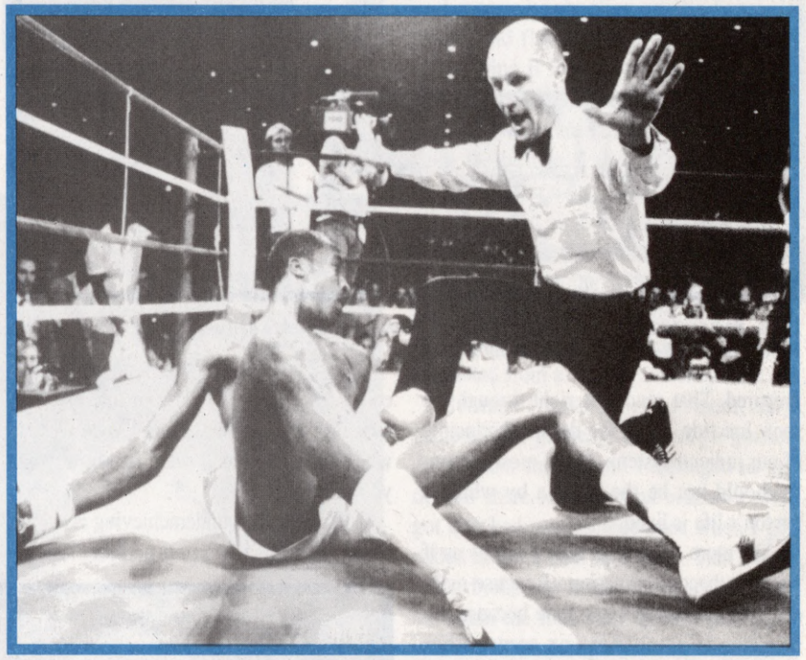


On the night that Lane counted out Milton McCrory in the second round of his welterweight unification bout with Donald Curry, Lane believes Curry might have been the best fighter in the world. Curry's subsequent failure to stay in shape and live up to his potential was a big disappointment to "Maximum Mills," who feels Curry cheated himself.

By Mills Lane with Jedwin Smith

Underachievers disgust me. I have absolutely no tolerance for those individuals blessed with an abundance of talent who end up squandering their gifts because they're just too damned lazy to attend to business.

Despite the fact he was a world champion, I believe Hector "Macho" Camacho was an underachiever. He had great talent, but never really maximized it, didn't do everything he could with it. The same can be said for Donald Curry. When he knocked out Milton McCrory on December 6, 1985, I believe on that night he was one of the greatest looking fighters I'd ever seen. Maybe the greatest fighter at that time at any weight in the world. Weighing in at 147 pounds, Curry became the undisputed welterweight champion. But about five months later he weighed 162. "What the hell is wrong with you?" I asked him. "Here you are a world champion and you're abusing your body. That's wrong, dammit."

I'm sure Curry didn't want to hear that, but it was the truth. Here was a guy with all that God-given talent, and he was just pissing it away. He was cheating himself, abusing his tools. No self-respecting carpenter leaves his hammer and saw out in the rain. That would be stupid, and there are some things you just don't do, not if you have pride in what you are trying to accomplish.

But there are some people you just can't get that through to, no matter how much you reprimand them. Roberto Duran, for instance, is one of the saddest examples of this that I have ever seen. From bell to bell, over a period of time, Duran was probably the greatest pure fighter I ever saw. He had speed, knew how to use the ring to his advantage, and possessed devastating punching power with either hand. On top of that, he was a stone-cold personality. Whenever I looked into his eyes, I saw nothing there—no compassion, no remorse at all. It was like looking into the eyes of a shark.

Roberto Duran could easily have been known as the greatest fighter of all-time, even greater than Muhammad Ali. But Duran abused his tools. Late in his career, he weighed 190 between fights, which is downright criminal for an athlete of his caliber.

Underachieving isn't only confined to boxing though. The quickest way for a lawyer to get in my doghouse is to skulk into the courtroom and request that a trial be postponed because he or she is not quite

Lane, demonstrating where Mike Tyson bit Evander Holyfield, had no idea at the time how beneficial "The Bite Fight" would be for his career.

prepared. That sends me right through the roof. Inaction is not the defining principle of our judicial system. And it most certainly should not be the criteria by which a person's life is lived.

Yet more often than not, it seems as if we have become a nation of excuse-makers. The job doesn't get done because it's raining, it's too hot, or some other bulls___. It seems as if we spend more time concocting excuses for our many failures than we do attending to the business of successfully completing the task at hand. We exhaust ourselves figuring out who to blame rather than figuring out how to solve the damn problem.

When I was boxing, if I found out my opponent was running two miles each day, then I'd run three. No matter what it took, I was going to be better prepared. That's the key to being a winner. Because I always had to work extra hard to get the job done, whether it was preparing for a fight or studying long into the night to fully understand the nuances of a legal brief, I know that if something needs to be done, then, by God, it can be done. As I've said before, all you've got to do is get your ears back and do it. I'm not interested in hearing your excuses. I don't want to hear what you can't do. I want to know what you can do.

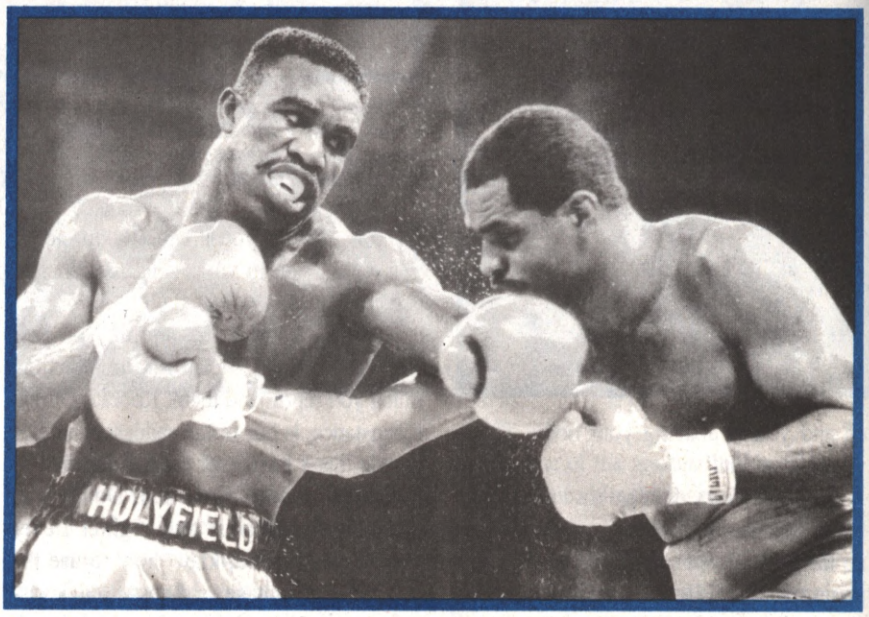
My disgust for underachieving is rooted in my childhood; I was a perfect example of unintelligent inaction. While my father could find no fault with my physical labors in the hay fields, he had reason to be critical of my efforts in the classroom. I wasn't trying hard enough. I wasn't doing what it took to get the job done.

My response was always the same: "Daddy, I am working hard. I am trying."

Of course, I was not applying myself as arduously as I was capable of, but I did not realize it at the time. I was occupied with far more important matters. Would the Lone Ranger and Tonto prevent that evil gang of cutthroats from stealing everyone's farms? Could Billy Conn stop Joe Louis?

While I have always possessed average intelligence and average skills, my youth is best defined by the fact that I also suffered from below-average desire. In an attempt to remedy this problem, in the fall of 1950 I was sent to a boarding school called Middlesex in Concord, Massachusetts. My father had attended the all-male enclave as a child and he had nothing but praise for the institution. It was one of those, "If it was good enough for me, it's good enough for you" situations in which a young man of 12 has no say. My father wanted to give me the finest preparatory education possible, and there was no arguing his decision.

I will never forget the moment when my parents left me. Daddy said, "Son, it's time for us to say goodbye." I was trying my best to be a man, even though I was

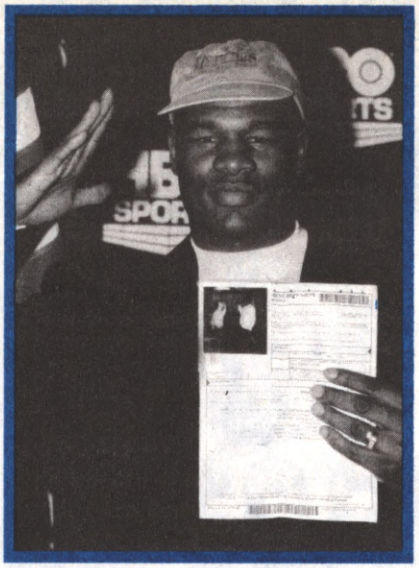


Holyfield, weakened from struggling to make weight, turned in an amazing performance to unify the cruiserweight title against Carlos DeLeon in Las Vegas in 1988. Lane labels Holyfield an overachiever who "maximized his better-than-average tools."

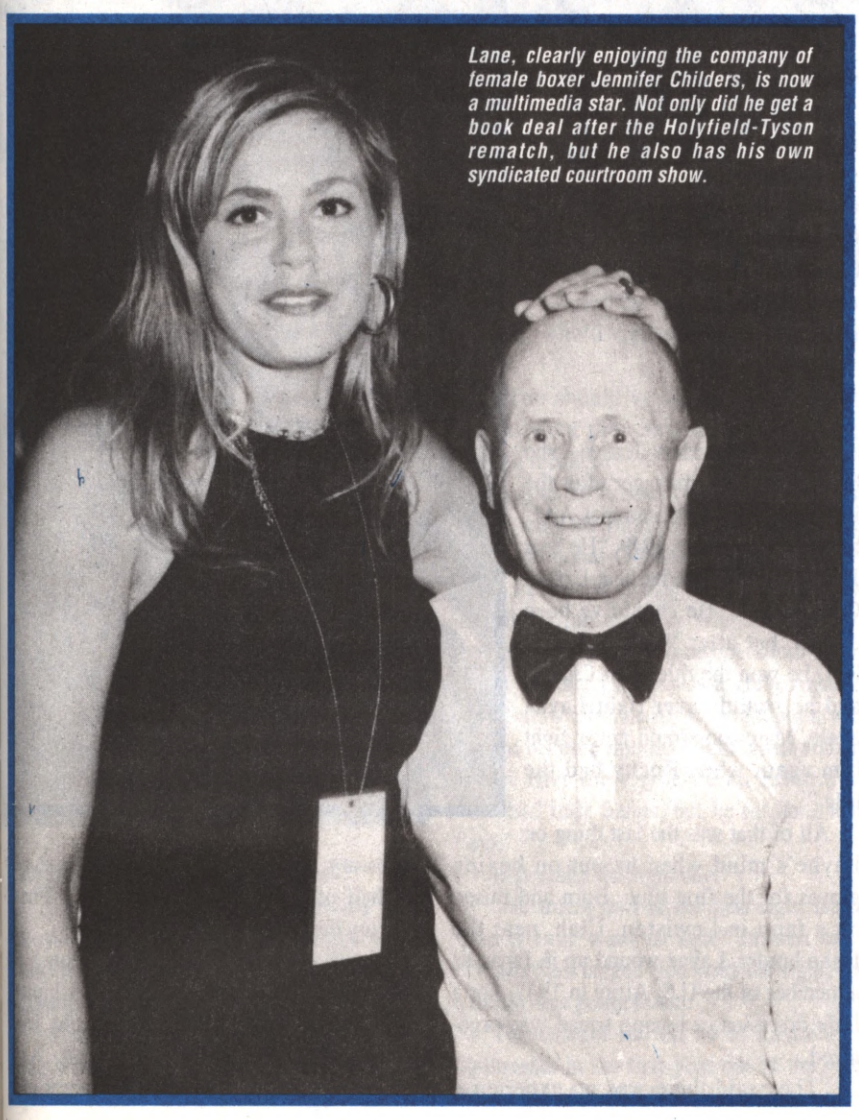
scared to death, and I remember crying as my mother and father got into the car. I can close my eyes and still see them driving down that small asphalt road, on their way back home without me.

Yet, as traumatic as that experience was, I learned an invaluable life lesson from it. Even though you do not know how in the hell you are going to get through what appears to be a catastrophic situation, you somehow do. Although you don't realize it at the time, you are able to survive because you end up reaching deep down inside yourself and getting acquainted with courage.

Nonetheless, Middlesex was a bitch. I hated the place. I didn't like the discipline. I didn't like some of the teachers, who were called masters, and I disliked schoolwork in any form or fashion. And being stuck near the top of the eastern seaboard was like being stranded on the moon. I was told when to go to sleep, when to wake up, when to eat, and when to study. Throughout my first five years there, I even had to wait on tables in the dining hall.



Lane thought Riddick Bowe's decision to enlist in the Marines might be just what he needed to turn his life around, but "Big Daddy's" complete lack of discipline made the whole affair a big embarrassment.



Lane, clearly enjoying the company of female boxer Jennifer Childers, is now a multimedia star. Not only did he get a book deal after the Holyfield-Tyson rematch, but he also has his own syndicated courtroom show.

Athletics was the only thing that made life bearable, and I participated in every sport I could. In fact, that was the first time I ever competed in anything. It was pretty neat, because we had real uniforms, helmets, and pads. It was fun, even though I was a little itty-bitty boy of about 4'11". While I lettered in crew and baseball, my favorites were football and ice hockey. Both provided the physical contact I was attracted to, even as a youngster.

I was a linebacker on the football squad, and flat-out loved hitting people. I'd be lying if I didn't say that it was fun knocking guys flat on their butts. Hockey was a bit different because, never having seen ice before, I didn't know how to skate. The first time I laced on the skates, I hit the ice and landed smack on my butt. I got up, fell down, and got up again. Next thing you know, the coach brought out a little wooden chair, and I pushed it in front of me as I got my bearings. I eventually graduated from a chair to a hockey stick.

Because I wasn't a great skater, they made me the goalie. In those days, goalies didn't wear masks, and I managed to get my fair share of bumps and bruises. I even got knocked unconscious once when I got nailed in the mouth by a puck. That's how I first broke my tooth, but it got knocked out again the following football season. It was worth it, though. Getting my lights turned out was still more fun than having to hit the books.

I survived Middlesex by taking it one day at a time. It was like climbing a mountain. The last thing you want to do is look at the top, because when you realize how far you still have to go, there is the tendency to quit. I got through the experience by climbing from one rock to another, moving up a little bit at a time. It was day to day, class to class.

That's also how I survived Marine Corps boot camp. I was forced to dig down deep inside myself for courage, taking hold of it and turning what some might think of as a bad situation into a good one.

The Corps was my line of demarcation. I was given a choice between being a gut-

(Continued on page 76)

1950s HEAVYWEIGHT CONTENDER REX LAYNE:

D.O.A. FOR HIS MOST IMPORTANT FIGHT!

By Pete Ehrmann

"Poor old Rex is 70 now, but I feel super," said genially self-mocking Rex Layne. "I live in a rest home now, where the food is great, the girls are pretty, and I get along with just about everybody."

There was a night almost 50 years ago when the man called "The Lewistown Larruper" didn't get along with somebody called "The Brockton Blockbuster." And, like the 48 other guys who had it out with Rocky Marciano in a boxing ring, poor old Rex came out second best. But considering that Layne was dead on arrival for that fight between the two fastest-rising heavyweights in boxing, it could have been worse. For a lot of other top heavyweights who fought Layne, it was.

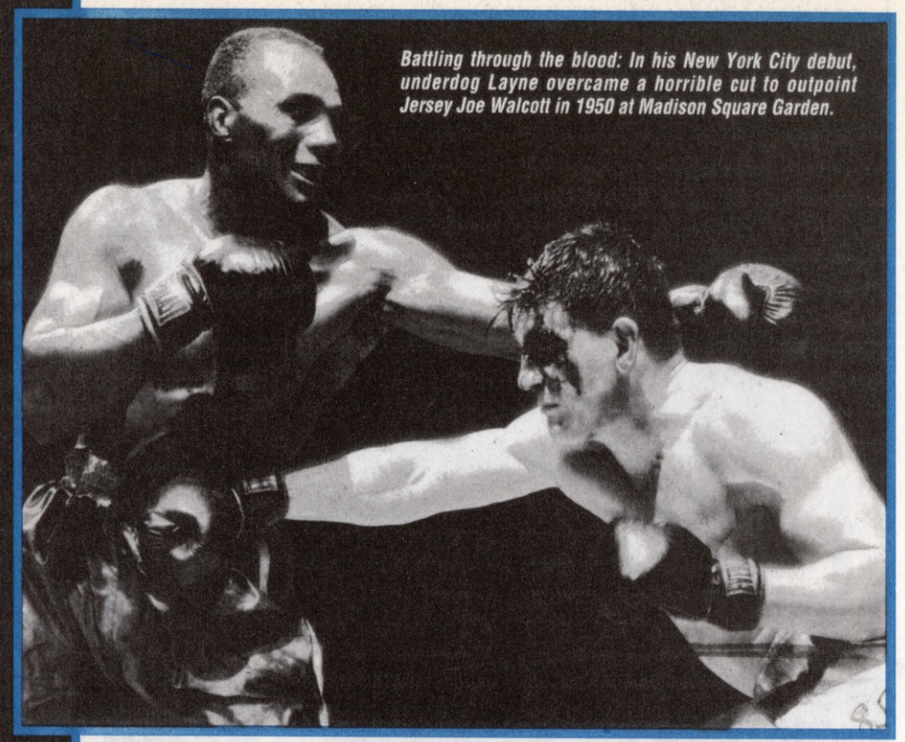
"He was one of the best heavyweights I ever saw," said Marv Jensen, who became Layne's manager after the Utah boxer won the national AAU heavyweight title in 1949. "He beat Jersey Joe Walcott, he beat Ezzard Charles once. He should've been champ, but after Walcott lost to Rex, he won the title from Charles and he would never fight Layne again. Marciano would never fight him again when Rocky had the title."

All of that was the last thing on Layne's mind when he put on boxing gloves for the first time. Born and raised on a farm in Lewiston, Utah, near the Idaho border, Layne wound up in Japan as a member of the U.S. Army in 1947. For a little diversion, a boxing squad was organized.

"They said there was no experience necessary, and you'd be excused from duty for half of every day," said Layne. "That was my deal right there."

Layne won the division championship and went all the way through the All-Japan tournament until "I ran into an old Joe Louis sparring partner named Art Williams, a tough old dude who taught me what the fight game was all about."

Manager Marv Jensen puts Layne through his paces. Jensen, who also managed middleweight champion Gene Fullmer, outfoxed lots of other would-be managers who wanted to sign Layne after he won the national AAU title in 1949.



Battling through the blood: In his New York City debut, underdog Layne overcame a horrible cut to outpoint Jersey Joe Walcott in 1950 at Madison Square Garden.

The lesson took. The following year, Layne made it to the U.S. Olympic Trials, and he won the national amateur championship in Boston the year after that.

Some of the biggest managers in boxing were waiting at the Salt Lake City airport to make their pitch for Layne as soon as he got off the plane from Massachusetts. The wily Jensen saw them as he boarded a flight there for Denver, having gone to the trouble to learn that Layne's westbound plane would have a brief layover in the Mile High City. When the most sought after heavyweight prospect in the world finally landed in Utah, with him was Jensen, who'd signed him up on the airplane.

"You should've seen all those fallen faces when they saw me get off, too," Jensen recalled.

Before he turned pro, Layne had one more amateur fight. He knocked out that year's national Golden Gloves champion, Don Perko, in a big benefit match for another Utah amateur who needed help paying the bills for a knee operation.

"I thought Layne was a great fighter," said fellow Utah native Gene Fullmer, who would become middleweight champion six years after the Layne-Perko exhibition. "He had little hands, but he hit hard with 'em."

Especially the right one.

"He threw one of the best right hands you'd ever want to see," Jensen said. "When Rex tagged you with the right, the curtain was going down."

The curtain fell on 14 of Layne's 15 opponents in his first year out of the gate. On December 21, 1949, however, Layne stepped into the ring with former heavyweight champion Joe Louis. It was only an exhibition, but "The Brown Bomber's" left hook was playing for keeps.

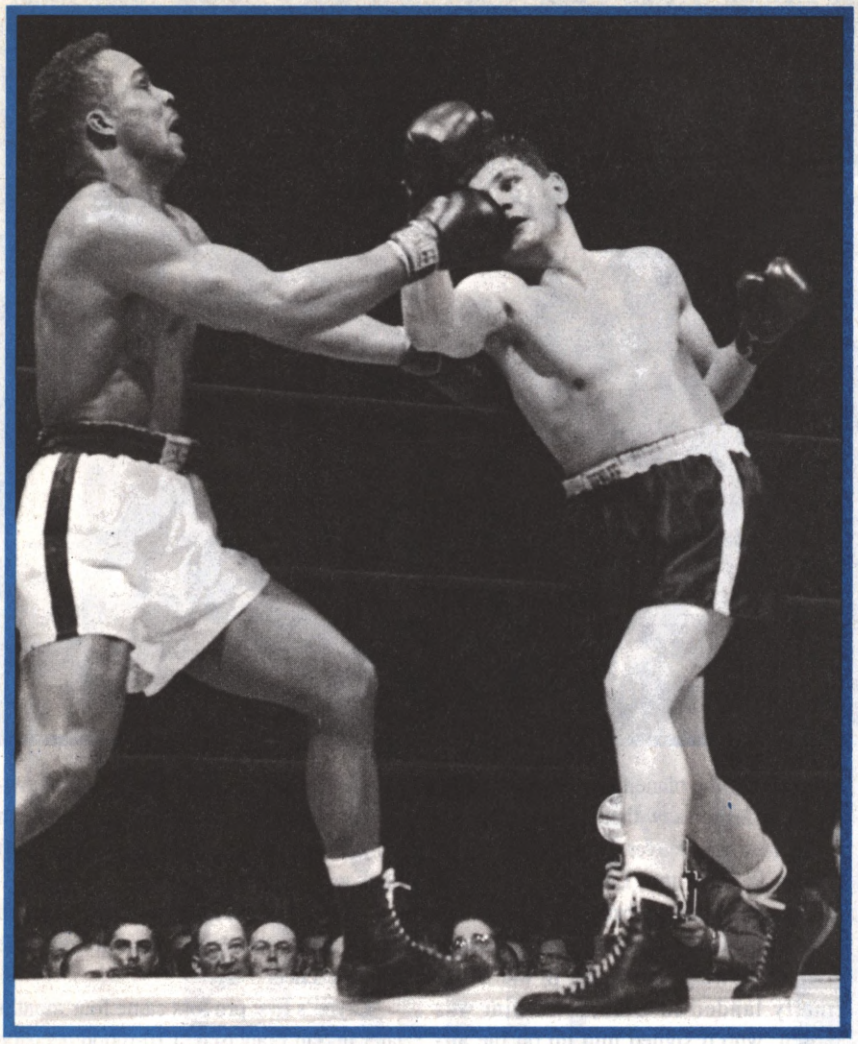
"It was the first time I ever got knocked on my butt," recalled Layne. "It was quite an experience."

Layne's first pro loss came four months later in San Francisco, a 10-round decision to tough Dave Whitlock, whom Layne had beaten earlier that year in Utah. "I went to Frisco and caught a damned cold and shouldn't have fought," Layne said. "But I needed the money."

He won a rubber match with Whitlock, and entered the rankings in the spring of 1950 by stopping Bob Dunlop. On July 15, Layne won a 12-round decision over number-four contender Joe Kahut for the heavyweight championship of the West Coast. "They gave me a belt for it and everything else," he recalled.

Layne ranks his next fight as the hardest of his 70 paid outings. In the other corner was a short, blocky Californian named Albert Thompson, whose skill and toughness belied his nickname, "Turkey." Layne still gives thanks for winning a decision over Thompson every time he thinks about the opponent even Louis would never fight.

"Oh, that sucker!" said Layne when Thompson's name was mentioned. "I



Layne came off the floor to stop murderous-punching Bob Satterfield. The exciting victory helped boost Layne to the number-one spot in the heavyweight rankings.

wouldn't fight him again if my life depended on it. The harder I punched him, the louder he'd growl and come after me. He had both my eyes wide open from the sixth round on, and I couldn't see nothing. It was good to have that one behind me."

When Layne headed east to fight Walcott at Madison Square Garden on November 24, 1950, Jersey Joe figured to put the Larruper behind him with ease on his way to a fourth try at the world championship. Although he'd lost twice to Louis and the other time to Charles, the shifty and slick old man—that's what they called 37-year-old boxers back then—had twice the experience of Layne. Walcott probably should have been champion three years earlier, when he put Louis down twice in their 15-rounder, only to end up on the losing side of a decision so questionable that even Louis tried to get out of the ring before it was announced.

Jersey Joe probably felt like taking an early powder himself after what *New York Times* writer James P. Dawson called "one of the biggest upsets local boxing has experienced."

Layne, victor over Walcott by unanimous decision, calls it "one of the easiest fights I ever had," in spite of suffering a cut over his left eye in the first round that made it "like looking through a foggy window all night."

Wrote Dawson: "[Walcott's] shifty style, his trickery and skill, were offset completely by the trip-hammer blows of the lad from the West."

"Old Walcott was a tricky boxer, but that night I taught a lot of boys a lesson," said Layne. "I felt good, but later they took me in and had to open my whole eye up and cut a lot of dead tissue out of it. That was worse than the fight."

Cuts were a career-long hairshirt for Layne, who said, "If I didn't have to go get sewed up after a fight, I didn't know I was in one."

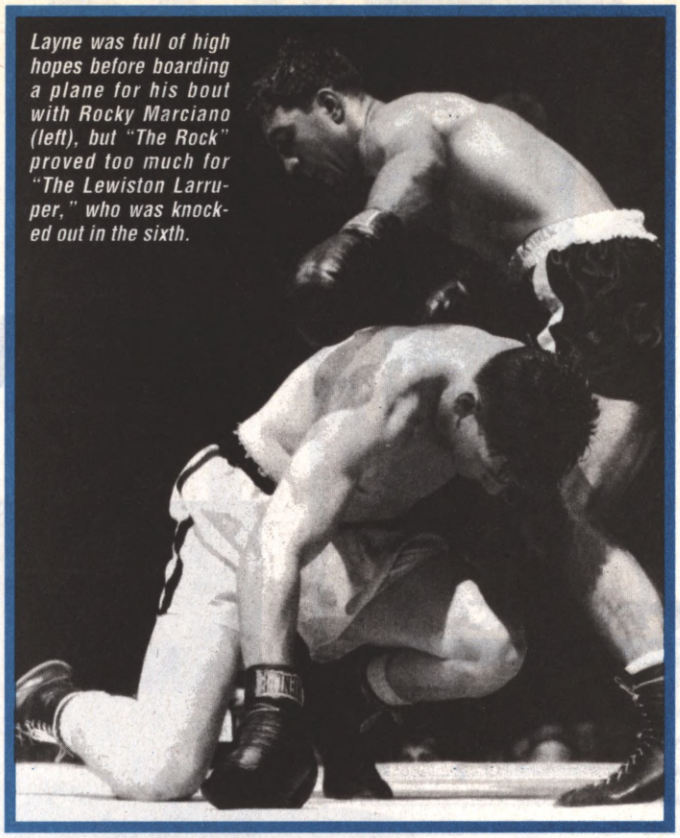
Less impressive in besting contender Cesar Brion in his second Garden party, Layne more than made up for it when he fought Bob Satterfield there on March 9, 1951. The 27-year-old Satterfield was the third-ranked light heavyweight who could knock out anything he hit, which accounted for him being the 9-5 favorite when they stepped into the ring, notwithstanding Layne's 10-pound pull in weight. Nine seconds after the opening bell, the Utah boxer was on the floor.

"For the next four rounds, I didn't even know what round it was," Layne recollected. But in the eighth of what the *Times* reported as "a savage, blood-tingling" affair, Layne stopped Satterfield with a booming right.

Former champion Jack Dempsey predicted that by the end of the year Layne would wear the crown, and Rex was the 9-5 betting choice to hurdle over Marciano at Madison Square Garden. But things started going wrong when Layne and Jensen were still in Salt Lake City. They had just boarded their flight to the Big Apple when a United Airlines official ran onto the plane and said that some U.S. Army officers needed to get east in a hurry, and asked Layne and Jensen to trade their places for the military contingent's seats on a later plane.

They agreed, and upon arriving at LaGuardia airport later, Layne and Jensen checked in at the Edison Hotel, then proceeded directly to Yankee Stadium to watch the Bronx Bombers play the Boston Braves. During the seventh-inning stretch, Jensen called his wife back home, who, upon hearing his voice, burst into tears. The plane they were originally booked to take east had gone into the side of a mountain in Colorado. The media in Salt Lake City were already reporting the deaths of everyone aboard, including Layne and Jensen.

Things did not improve as the bout drew nearer. "I hate to make excuses," Layne said, "but we had to be in Pompton Lakes, Joe Louis' old training camp, two weeks before the fight. Nobody lived there. It stunk and was dirty and filthy."



Layne was full of high hopes before boarding a plane for his bout with Rocky Marciano (left), but "The Rock" proved too much for "The Lewiston Larruper," who was knocked out in the sixth.

The fight itself ended 35 seconds into round six, when a Marciano right put Layne down for good in what the *Times'* Dawson called "one of the most savage heavyweight battles a local ring has held in many years. Like two wildcats, they ripped and slashed at each other from the top of the opening gong."

At any rate, it was Marciano who fought and beat Walcott for the title, and in his next bout Layne was knocked out by former champ Charles in the 11th round of a match Jensen says was only scheduled for 10. "Unbeknownst to us, they made it a 12-round fight," he claimed. "Rex got caught in the 11th, and it shouldn't have been."

Even after his best years were over, Layne still turned in an outstanding performance from time to time, including his 1954 decision over Willie Bean.

"Every one of them was tough," said Layne of his three meetings with Charles, whom he calls "a great athlete and underrated as a boxer." Ezzard won two, but on August 8, 1952, Layne received what qualifies as one of the oddest decisions rendered in a big-time heavyweight fight. Before a sellout crowd of 23,000 at Rodeo Stadium in Ogden, Utah (with an additional 15,000 persons reportedly turned away), referee and sole arbiter Jack Dempsey ruled that Rex had won two rounds, Charles one, and the other seven were even. AP agreed that it had been a very close fight, but reported that Charles had an edge.

In early-'53, Layne lost a 10-round split decision to Roland LaStarza and was then outpointed in his third match with Charles. He managed a win over Bill McClure in June, but was stopped twice in succession by British Empire champion Earl Walls, a former sparring partner who capitalized on what he'd learned helping Layne prepare for the Walcott fight.

"Walls told me, 'Rex, I found out one little thing about you.' He never would say what it was, but that sucker sure did. He sure dumped me," said Layne.

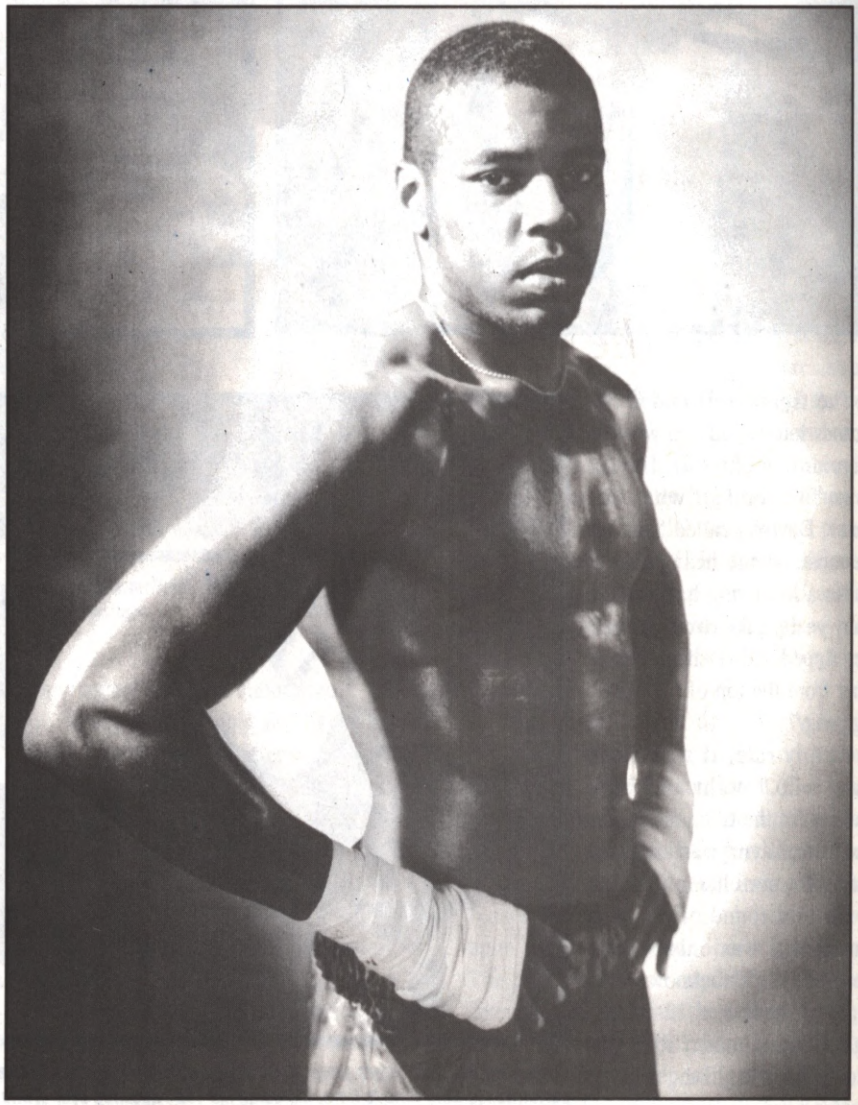
The final couple years of Layne's full-time career as a prize fighter were essentially downhill. There were two kayo defeats to future title challenger Tommy "Hurricane" Jackson ("A wildman," said Rex. "He wouldn't quit."), plus three decision losses to contender Bob Baker and one to future light heavyweight champ Willie Pastrano.

(Continued on page 79)

NEW FACES

SYD VANDERPOOL

Middleweight



PRO RECORD

1993		
March 3	Jose Rodriguez, Boston	KO 1
March 17	James Campbell, Boston	KO 3
April 9	Chris Frank, Whitman, MA	KO 2
April 23	Ervin Hatch, Hartford, CT	KO 2
June 18	Ed Jimenez, Boston	KO 6
June 25	Terry Seay, Boston	KO by 5
Dec. 16	Mike Duncan, New Castle, PA	KO 1
1994		
Feb. 11	George Taylor, Erie, PA	KO 4
March 13	Jim Smith, Erie	KO 3
April 29	Ron West, Erie	KO 3
June 10	Greg Harper, Erie	W 6
Aug. 26	Aaron McLaurine, Erie	W 6
Oct. 27	Tyrone Haywood, Sharon, PA	W 6
Nov. 15	Glenn Odom, Erie	W 8
Dec. 15	Robert Briggs, Erie	KO 3
1995		
March 15	Alphonso Dyer, Erie	KO 1
April 6	Reggie Strickland, Erie	W 8
Sept. 21	Anthony Ivory, Toronto, Ontario	W 8
1996		
Nov. 5	Francisco Hernandez, Memphis, TN	W 6
Dec. 17	Stan Cunningham, Montreal, Quebec	KO 2
1997		
Jan. 9	Nelson Figueroa, Washington, D.C.	KO 1
March 4	Joe Stevenson, Toronto	W 8
Sept. 12	George Brown, Chicago	KO 7
1998		
Jan. 27	Tim Dendy, Nashville, TN	KO 10
June 16	Lonny Beasley, Detroit	W 12

FIGHTS	WON	LOST	DREW	KOs
25	24	1	0	15

By Joe Santoliquito

Sunday was always dusting day. The front window of the Vanderpool home served as a trophy display for the neighborhood. Every time Syd Vanderpool or any of his older brothers won a boxing tournament, that's where the hardware went. It was Dad's way of telling the neighbors what his sons achieved. With each trophy, Syd would cringe. More work.

The Vanderpool boys started boxing in the garage. They would receive the occa-

(Continued on page 80)

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SUMMARY

HEAVYWEIGHTS

Ike Ibeabuchi KO 9 Everton Davis
Axel Schulz W 10 Richard Mason
Tony LaRosa W 10 Iran Barkley
Trevor Berbick W 10 Ben Perlini
Ed Mahone Tech. Draw 6 Al Williams
John Kiser W 10 Ricky Jackson
Melvin Foster KO 9 Mike Weaver
Shazzon Bradley W 8 Bryant Smith
Wolfgramm W 8 Jorge Luis Gonzalez
Butterbean KO 1 Tim Pollard

CRUISERWEIGHTS

Saul Montana KO 1 Tiwon Taylor
Marcelo Dominguez KO 3 Angel Amarilla
Michael Nunn W 10 Glenn Thomas
Pietro Aurino KO 9 Ene Ion

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS

Montell Griffin KO 3 Randall Yonkers
Antonio Tarver KO 2 Rocky Gannon
David Telesco KO 10 Vinson Durham
Richard Frazier W 8 Tyler Emmett Hughes
Chris Johnson KO 3 Cecil McKenzie
Lincoln Carter KO 3 Kenneth Whack
Marco Antonio Duarte W 12 Rogerio Lobo

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Charles Brewer KO 3 Antoine Byrd
(Retains IBF Title)
Richie Woodhall W 12 Glenn Catley
(Retains WBC Title)
Dean Francis KO 2 Xolani Ngmentu
Merqui Sosa W 10 Eric Holland
Sven Ottke W 10 Wilhelmus Krijnen
Byron Mitchell KO 1 Michael Gordon
Bryant Brannon KO 3 Scott Lopeck
Eddie Bryant KO 9 Joe Hughes
Ricky Thornberry KO 1 Lionel Okulu

MIDDLEWEIGHTS

William Joppy KO 3 Roberto Duran
(Retains WBA Title)
Bernard Hopkins No-Contest 4 Robert Allen
(Retains IBF Title)
Julio Cesar Green KO 6 Joaquin Velazquez
Silvio Branco KO 8 Anthony Andrews
Adrian Dodson KO 2 Israel Ponce
Kevin Palmer W 12 Yoshinori Nishizawa

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Harry Simon W 12 Winky Wright
Fernando Vargas KO 6 Darren Maciunski
Kirino Garcia W 10 Roland Rangel
Larry Dixon KO 5 Rene Arostegui
Lonnie Smith W 10 Gilberto Flores
Hassan Al W 10 Meldrick Taylor
Meldrick Taylor W 6 Rafael Salas
Akira Ohigashi W 10 Tatsufumi Ito

WELTERWEIGHTS

Jose Luis Lopez KO 3 Ed Goins
Vernon Forrest KO 11 Adrian Stone
Maxim Nesterenko KO 6 Pasquale Perna
James Page KO 6 Anthony Perry
Michel Trabant W 12 Eric Jakubowski
Joey Gamache KO 3 Tim Scott
Joey Gamache KO 6 Chuck Sturm

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS

Kostya Tszyu KO 9 Rafael Ruelas
Diobelys Hurtado KO 5 Darryl Tyson
David Sample KO 5 Rudy Lovato
Mauro Lucero W 10 Michael Lerma
Ahmed Santos W 10 Danny Lujan
Hector Camacho Jr. KO 4 Margarito Navarro
Christy Martin KO 9 Cheryl Nance

LIGHTWEIGHTS

Cesar Bazan W 12 Hiroyuki Sakamoto
(Retains WBC Title)
Ivan Robinson W 10 Arturo Gatti
Harold Warren W 8 Javier Diaz
Hector Arroyo KO 6 Luis Lizarraga
Carlos Gerena KO 2 Luis Martinez
Joel Casamayor KO 2 Miguel Figueroa
Paul Spadafora KO 2 Dave Thomas
Yuji Watanabe KO 4 Chanjong Kim
Ric Ramirez KO 6 Andrei Bunta

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS

Takanori Hatakeyama W 12 Yong Soo Choi
(Retains WBA Title)
Jesus Chavez KO 2 Eloy Ortega
Jorge Paez W 10 Victor Hugo Paz
Carlos Rios W 10 Jorge Noriega
Jorge Barrios KO 2 Walter Rodriguez

FEATHERWEIGHTS

Luisito Espinosa Tech. Win 11
Juan Carlos Ramirez
(Retains WBC Title)
Derrick Gainer W 10 Bernard Harris
Cesar Soto W 10 Carlos Rios
Juan Manuel Marquez KO 8 Enrique Jupiter
Julio Chacon W Disq. 3 Ever Beleno
Hector Acero-Sanchez W 8 Juan Mejia
Takashi Koshimoto KO 9 Tashikage Kimura

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS

Erik Morales KO 4 Junior Jones
(Retains WBC Title)
Lehlo Ledwaba W 10 Arnel Barotillo
John Michael Johnson W 8 Arturo Estrada
Agapito Sanchez W 10 Nestor Lopez
Tatsuya Tojo KO 7 Yasuaki Tansho
Kozo Ishii KO 3 Bimboy Ruego
Emmanuel Lucero KO 2 Felipe Gandus

BANTAMWEIGHTS

Koichiro Tatsuyoshi Tech. Win 6 Paulie Ayala
(Retains WBC Title)
Johnny Tapia W 10 Carlos Hernandez
(Non-Title Bout)
Keiji Yamaguchi W 10 Rudy Idano
Jess Maca W 12 Setsuo Kawamasu

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS

Jhoo Cho W 12 Gerry Penalosa
(Wins WBC Title)
Miguel Martinez KO 2
Jose Caguitas DeJesus
Pedro Pena W 10 Edgar Garcia
Eric Morel KO 1 Julio Cesar Bazan

FLYWEIGHTS

Mark Johnson KO 6 Jose Laureano
(Retains IBF Title)
Ruben Sanchez KO 8 Carlos Salazar
Melchor Cobb Castro KO 8 Tomas Rivera

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS

Mauricio Pastrana KO 9 Carlos Murillo
Oscar Andrade W 12 Javier Munoz
Luis Lazarte W 12 Jose Ferreyra

STRAWWEIGHTS

Wandee Chor Chareon W 12 Rocky Lin
Keitaro Hoshino W 10 Hiroshi Nakajima
Jose Aguirre KO 2 Rafael Orozco

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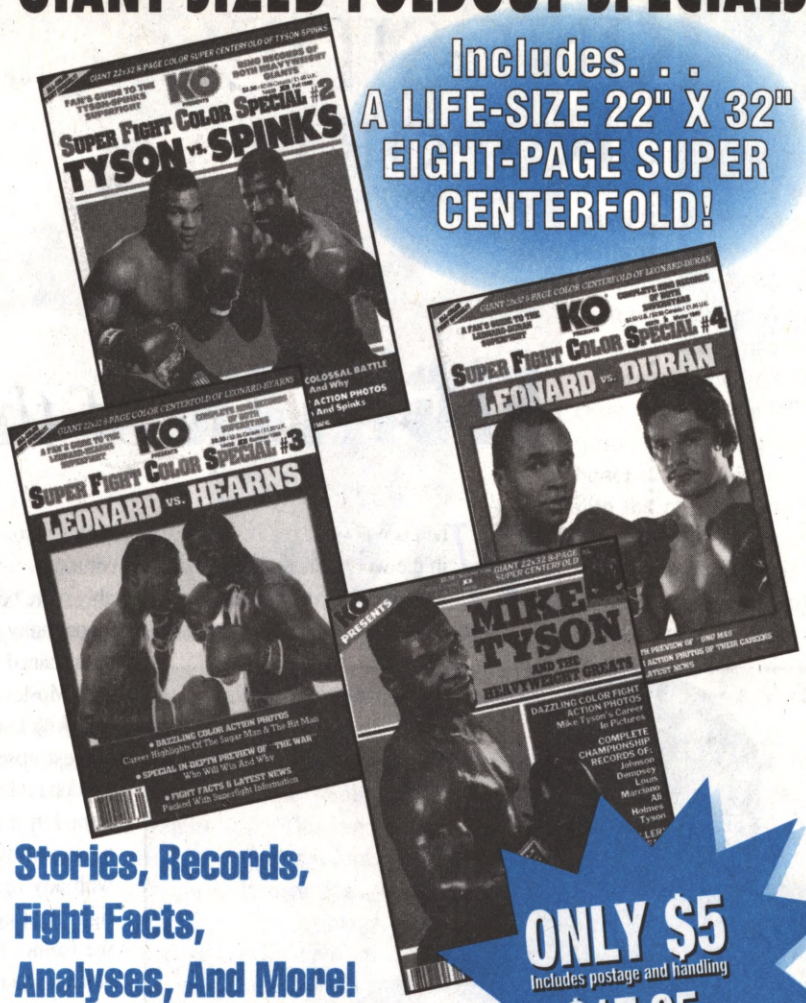

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RINGSIDE REPORTS

FIGHTER *of the* MONTH

When is it good to get a cut over the eye? When you're training for a fight with the best lightweight in the world, Shane Mosley, and the cut forces you to withdraw, clearing the way for an equally lucrative showdown with the considerably more beatable Arturo Gatti.

Philadelphia-native Robinson thought his last opportunity might have been passing him by when the gash he sustained in sparring kept him out of the June 27 meeting with Mosley, but when "Mighty Ivan" found himself in the ring with Gatti in August instead, he pulled off one of the biggest upsets of the year. All but forgotten after Israel Cardona flattened him in three rounds in July '97, Robinson turned in a performance against Gatti that reminded the boxing world that, with proper training, he can go toe-to-toe with any lightweight out there. He didn't even fight the right fight against Gatti; Robinson often stood in front of the former IBF 130-pound champion, pursuing without caution when Gatti was hurt. And though that led to several scary moments for Robinson, he clearly deserved the decision at the end of 10 spectacular rounds.

The ultimate irony is that Gatti's whole downward slide began with a cut above the eye in the first round of his January fight with Angel Manfredy. Gatti may be known for his ability to bounce back from adversity, but even he couldn't find a way to turn a cut over his eye into a career resurrection.

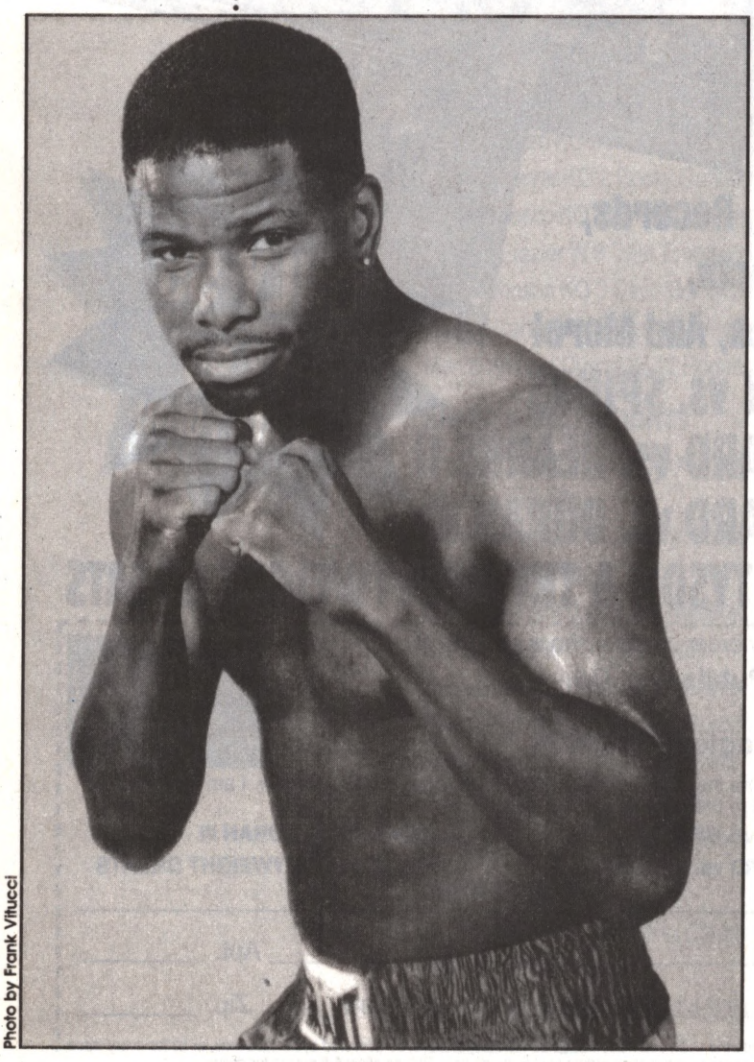


Photo by Frank Vitucci

• • • •

Ivan Robinson

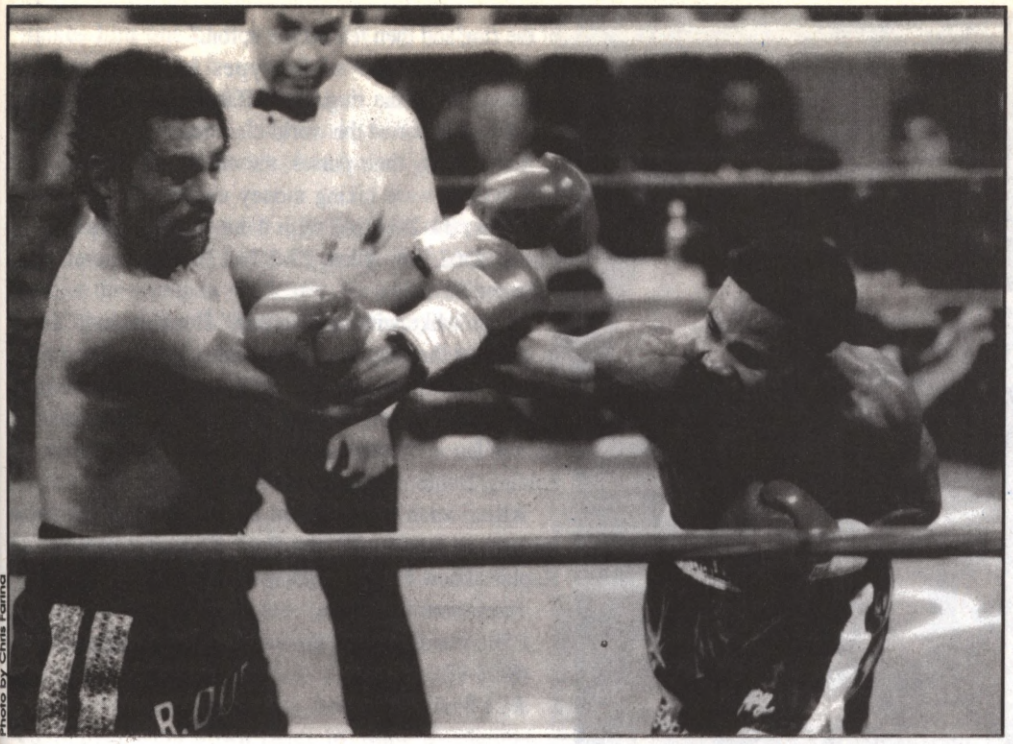


Photo by Chris Farina

Joppy landed at will against ancient Duran

William Joppy KO 3 Roberto Duran

Las Vegas, Nevada: Joppy turned Duran's dream of a miracle upset and one last world title into a painful boxing nightmare, scoring a third-round TKO to retain the WBA middleweight crown at the Las Vegas Hilton. Scheduled for 12 rounds, the fight was unveiled as a dreadful mismatch with the first heavy combination the 27-year-old Joppy, 160, Washington, D.C., laid on 47-year-old Panamanian Duran, 159, incredibly a full-time warrior since 1967.

In a press conference 48 hours earlier, Duran told admirers, "just one more year of this and I'll go back to my salsa band." Once a valiant ringman who won world titles at 135, 147, 154, and 160 pounds, Duran didn't have one winning round left, much less a whole year. It was a minor miracle that the erstwhile "Hands Of Stone" finished erect considering the unanswered jabs, hooks, and uppercuts he absorbed from the unerring Joppy.

All those magnificent skills, like those on display the night in Montreal he earned $10-million for giving Sugar Ray Leonard his first loss, had cruelly betrayed the still hard-nosed Duran. There were ardent aficionados who thought Duran might reach back nine years to that night in Atlantic City when he won the WBC middleweight crown from Iran Barkley on a split decision.

Joppy, like the audience who remembered Duran's past glories, clearly didn't enjoy this first defense of his second reign, in what was little more than a turkey shoot. From the first bell, Duran was trying to get inside to no avail. Whatever openings he found, Duran's reflexes would not obey. Joppy's jab was like radar, and when he scored with a short right uppercut, Duran's head snapped like it was on a rubber band.

In the second round, Joppy ripped home two left hooks and a right to the body. Duran's frustration was written on his face as he repeatedly lunged to invoke clinches. The storied ex-champion's combinations were especially conspicuous by their absence.

Duran ran out in round three and half-pushed a glancing right. It would be his last effort, as Joppy quickened the tempo with jabs. Whatever punch the WBA ruler wanted to throw, it knocked Duran off-balance. Referee Joe Cortez (USA) kept a close eye on Duran early in the third round as the house began to chant, "Stop it, stop it." Joppy was now throwing punches in bunches as he drove Duran into the ropes. There was a look of resignation on Duran's swarthy face, but his heart wouldn't buy it. Joppy was still landing full-force when Cortez wisely aborted the mismatch at 2:54 of the third round. There was no protest from Duran or the public.

Joppy, 26-1-1 (20), wasn't gloating over his latest triumph despite earning $270,000.

"This is a kind of sad finale," Joppy said. "Duran was a great fighter. I looked up to him. I loved him, but it's my time now. Roberto has had his time. One hundred years from now when people talk boxing, they'll be talking about Duran. I want my name to come up some day like that as a great fighter. It's kind of a sad victory, but I had to do my job."

Duran made only a brief comment leaving the ring, then retired to his hotel suite for the night.

"I am finished, but I'm okay. I'm perfectly all right. Joppy was too heavy and too fast for me. I had no problems and I knew what was happening the whole time. I felt I had a chance to win tonight because anything is possible in boxing."

Duran collected only $25,000 of his reported $250,000 purse, which was attached by the IRS to partially cover the $300,000 the ex-champion owes in delinquent taxes in the United States.

Television: Showtime

Promoter: Don King Productions

(8-28-98)

Jack Welsh

Bernard Hopkins No-Contest 4 Robert Allen

Las Vegas, Nevada: IBF middleweight champion Hopkins, 160, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, saw his defense against number-one challenger Allen, 160, Atlanta, Georgia, wind up as a bizarre no-contest when he fell and suffered a sprained left ankle after referee Mills Lane's attempt to break a clinch. Hopkins lost his balance, fell out of the ring, and could not continue. Since it was a

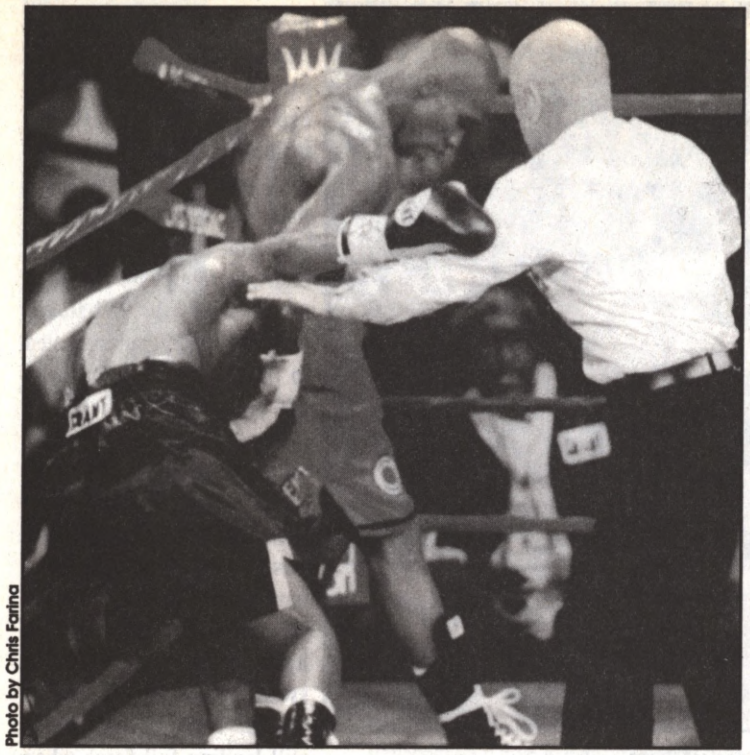


Photo by Chris Farina

Lane and Allen combine to send Hopkins through the ropes

mandatory defense, IBF President Robert Lee ordered a rematch "when both fighters are physically fit."

Dr. Flip Homansky, the Nevada State Athletic Commission's chief ringside physician, said Hopkins suffered a severe contusion and a sprain of a left ankle ligament. Hopkins was removed from the Las Vegas Hilton to Valley Hospital immediately after the bout for X-rays and released several hours later.

The fight ended at 2:57 of the fourth round. Under the IBF rules for fights in the United States, a bout must last four full rounds to go to the judges' scorecards. In a dull bout fraught with repeated clinching, headlocks, and roughhousing, Lane (USA) was trying to break Hopkins and Allen for the umpteenth time. Neither fighter would let go, and Lane made it a tangled trio as he moved the boxers toward Hopkins' corner.

"Allen had Hopkins in a headlock, and Hopkins was in a clinch with Allen, holding one of his arms," Lane explained. "They were wrestling toward the apron. I was trying to get the glove from the headlock off to break them. They were roughhousing on the inside, and the ropes wouldn't hold them. Hopkins' momentum seemed to take him out of the ring.

"As it turned out, they got twisted around. Allen still had Hopkins in a headlock. I reached up to grab Allen's arm and, at the same time, pull away Hopkins. My momentum was as much involved as theirs. In my attempt to pull them apart, Hopkins went out of the ring and then fell off the apron."

Although some media types felt Lane pushed Hopkins out of the ring, Marc Ratner, NSAC executive secretary, supported the world-class referee.

Considering their purses, the media unanimously felt both boxers were taking money under false pretenses. Hopkins, 34-2-1 (26) with 1 no-contest, reportedly earned $562,500. Allen, 22-2-1 (17) with 1 no-contest, collected $67,331.

"I don't like winning like this," Hopkins said. "I like to win it in the ring. I hit Allen with a left hand and right hook. He took his right arm and threw me out of the ring. I felt a burning and twisting sensation in my ankle. I'll fight Allen in 30 days. I didn't complain once about the holding. But look at the tapes, they don't lie."

Allen wasn't convinced that Hopkins was truly injured, insisting after the fight, "I was stronger, and Hopkins knew he wasn't going to win tonight."

Television: Showtime

Promoter: Don King Productions, America Presents

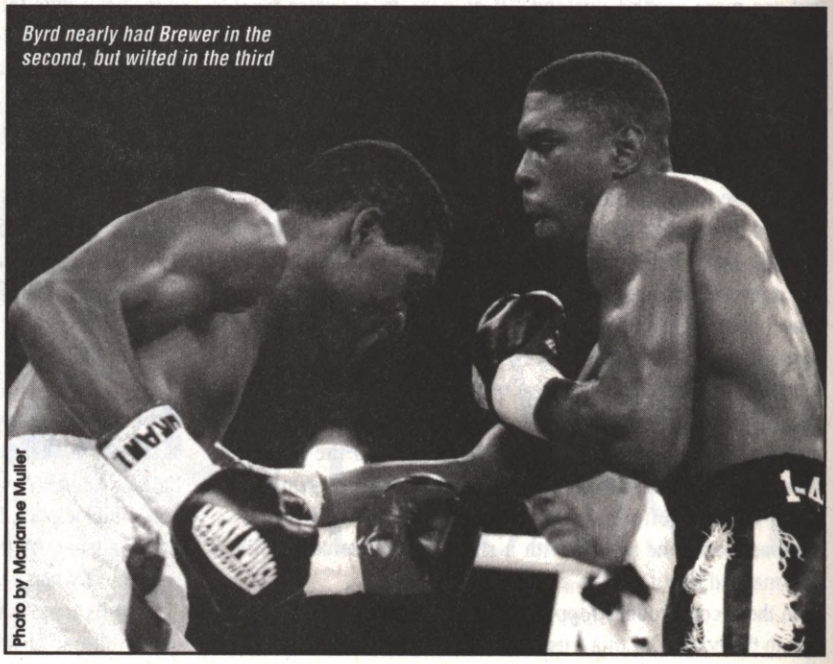
(8-28-98)

Jack Welsh

Charles Brewer KO 3 Antoine Byrd

Leipzig, Germany: Complacency almost cost Brewer, 167¾, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, dearly in the second round of a mandatory defense of the IBF super middleweight title against Byrd, 167¾, Los Angeles, California, when he got tagged by a solid right hook that had his legs betraying him. Typically, Brewer's determination, conditioning, and that equalizer of a left hand saved him. It was his third defense.

Brewer might not be Roy Jones, the man he succeeded as champion by stopping overwhelmed Gary Ballard for the vacant belt in June last year, but his mix of power and vulnerability



Byrd nearly had Brewer in the second, but wilted in the third

Photo by Marianne Muller

makes him one of the more exciting performers around. He came from behind to stop the slippery and still formidable Herol Graham earlier this year, but against Byrd at the Leipzig Messe Halle, the situation became even starker. And he had only himself to blame.

Little time was wasted in feeling each other out as Brewer, 32-5 (22), settled quickly into a rhythm against the southpaw challenger. He was so delighted with his handiwork that he let out a joyous shriek after hammering a series of hard, fast shots into Byrd's head and body. His celebration proved premature.

The 35-year-old Byrd steadied himself and fired over a perfect right hook that staggered Brewer, 28, so forcefully he did well to stay on his feet. He survived a suddenly invigorated Byrd's subsequent onslaught, but remained on the defensive as the third round got underway. He was not done, however, and as Byrd, 31-8-1 (17), backpedaled to the ropes, "The Hatchet" unleashed a wicked left uppercut that sapped every ounce of energy from Byrd's body. The challenger went down twice in quick succession before referee Denny Nelson (USA) wisely intervened at the 1:11 mark.

German WBC international champion Sven Ottke, an unimpressive 10-round points winner over William Krijnen on the undercard, is set to provide Brewer's next challenge.

Promoter: Cedric Kushner Productions
(8-22-98)
Brian Doogan

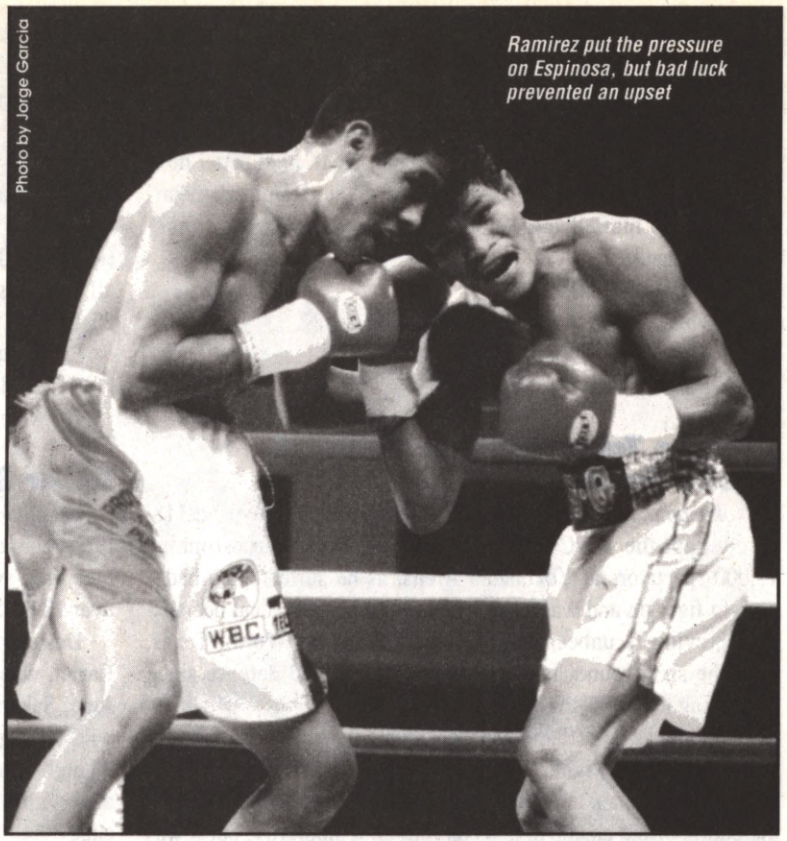


Photo by Jorge Garcia

Ramirez put the pressure on Espinosa, but bad luck prevented an upset

Luisito Espinosa Tech. Win 11 Juan Carlos Ramirez

El Paso, Texas: Espinosa, fighting before a hostile crowd at the El Paso Coliseum, retained the WBC featherweight title with an 11th-round technical decision over local upstart Ramirez.

The fight started slowly with the two men taking the first couple of rounds to pick, probe, and quietly study each other. The action was slow, and by the end of round two, the boisterous crowd of 6,731 began to get restless.

In round three, the fireworks started. The undefeated challenger from bordering Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, gave his fans what they had come to see when he abandoned his cautious approach and forced the experienced champion from Manila, Philippines, to rumble on the inside and along the ropes. A pair of strong rights at the end of the round stunned Espinosa.

In round four, Espinosa, 125½, showed some firepower of his own, catching Ramirez, 125, with a big left hook as the challenger burrowed in along the ropes. Though hurt and bleeding from the nose, Ramirez, 14-1 (7), continued to press the action and force his way inside the champ's long reach. At the end of the round, both were trading freely.

Espinosa, 43-7 (22), making his seventh defense of the title, employed his considerable experience and guile in the next four rounds, firing long-range, windmill-like combinations and then scooting out of the way before his dogged 20-year-old challenger had a chance to counter. Experience was a factor as Espinosa dictated the pace with his jab and movement, and continually stymied Ramirez' bullish rushes with multipunch combinations.

But Espinosa's 31-year-old legs began to fail him in round nine when Ramirez tagged him with several strong right hands. At last, Ramirez' strong pursuit—and his youth—was starting to pay off.

In round 10, Ramirez swarmed the champion, hurting him with a series of right hands. Espinosa did an involuntary dance after a big combination, and it looked like the champion's reign was going to come to a shocking and sudden conclusion when referee Laurence Cole stepped in and warned Ramirez for repeated low blows.

The crowd, cheering lustily for the local favorite, went berserk. A hail of full and empty beer cups sailed toward the ring, a couple of them nailing Cole and Espinosa. Ringside photographers and reporters were drenched, and for a split-second, a full-blown riot seemed eminent. Finally, after ring announcer Michael Buffer asked the crowd to behave, the fight resumed and Espinosa survived the round. Unfortunately for Ramirez, Cole's intervention might have saved Espinosa from a knockout defeat.

With emotions running high, round 11 began, and Ramirez again began to press Espinosa when controversy number two arose: A clash of heads at 2:20 of the round left a deep gash above Espinosa's left eye. The ringside doctor deemed it too severe to continue, prompting Cole to go to the scorecards.

Ringsiders held their collective breaths as the scores were read. Through the 11th round, judges Jerry McKenzie (USA) and Garry Ritter (USA) had Espinosa up 106-104 and 105-104, respectively.

David Harris (USA) had Ramirez winning by 106-104.

Though no one mentioned a rematch immediately after the fight, it was apparent by Espinosa's hasty exit that he wouldn't want it to be in El Paso. If he is to ever meet "Prince" Naseem Hamed and earn the biggest payday of his career, he'd better do it now; the champion looked ready to be taken. Ramirez, meanwhile, earned himself further title consideration with his surprising performance.

Television: TVKO
Promoter: America Presents
(8-15-98)
Matthew Aguilar

Joichiro Tatsuyoshi Tech. Win 6 Paulie Ayala

Yokohama, Japan: Fast, tricky Japanese hero Tatsuyoshi, 118, barely kept the WBC bantamweight title before an estimated 17,000 spectators at Yokohama Arena, as he suffered too bad a gash to fight on and was awarded a unanimous technical decision over previously unbeaten lefty Ayala, 116, Fort Worth, Texas, after the sixth round. It was Tatsuyoshi's second defense since reclaiming the WBC throne last November.

The popular and flamboyant champion started well with fast jabs and good straight rights to befuddle the southpaw Texan. Number-one contender Ayala, however, scored an effective left to the button of the champ and shook him up temporarily, but it was not enough to win the round.

The 28-year-old champ dominated the second through fourth rounds with his fine display of superior speed and precision. Tatsuyoshi moved well, and dug solid left hooks to the side. The third round saw Tatsuyoshi start showboating with his hands low, but he still took the initiative as he caught Ayala, also 28, with sharp jabs and accurate straight rights.

The Japanese champion dominated the fourth with his effective bodyshots—especially left hooks to the stomach. But Ayala stood and fought, occasionally retaliating with a left-right combo. It appeared he was beginning to get accustomed to Tatsuyoshi's tricky style and to gradually solve the champ's strategy.

Ayala was in command in the fifth, as he landed effective right hooks to the champ's face. Tatsuyoshi also caught him with a few jabs and lefts to the body, but Ayala was certainly more accurate.

A collision of heads occurred midway through the sixth, and Tatsuyoshi abruptly stopped fighting. Referee Guadalupe Garcia (Mexico) had the cut under the right eyebrow examined by the ringside physician, who initially allowed him to go on. Tatsuyoshi, his face mostly crimson, resumed fighting, but the red ribbon around his eye seemed to prevent him from seeing his opponent well.

After the sixth, the doctor checked the cut again, talked with the third man, and advised him to declare a halt. Tatsuyoshi was about to come out for the seventh, and he sat down and cried tears, mistakenly believing that he was declared a TKO loser.

But the reality was that they went to the scorecards after deducting a point from Ayala due to the unintentional butt, in accordance with WBC rules. Lou Filippo (USA) and David Chung (Korea) both had it 59-56, and Sergio Silvi (Italy) scored it 58-57, all for Tatsuyoshi, 17-4-1 (12). The crestfallen Ayala fell to 25-1 (11).

Promoters: Teiken Promotions, Top Rank
(8-23-98)
Joe Koizumi

Cesar Bazan W 12 Hiroyuki Sakamoto

Yokohama, Japan: Elongated Mexican Bazan, 134¾, successfully retained the WBC lightweight title on a unanimous verdict over free-swinging Japanese challenger Sakamoto, also 134¾, over 12 heats at Yokohama Arena.

Despite the rather lopsided scores, it wasn't an easy fight for Bazan, who had dethroned Stevie Johnston in El Paso, Texas, in June. Sakamoto, four years his senior at 27, kept boring in with wild lefts and rights. Though the Japanese fighter was aggressive all night, Bazan cleverly averted almost all his big shots and retaliated with more accurate and effective straight rights and uppercuts.

In the seventh, Sakamoto started bleeding from a cut over the left eye, which clearly prevented him from stalking the taller champ. Even if he hadn't sustained that gash and had possessed sound eyesight, it would have been a mighty challenge to catch the young but skillful puncher.

Sakamoto dominated the final session with his desperate

Photo by Chris Farina

The always excitable Tapia tears into Hernandez in non-title bout

attacks, forcing Bazan to utilize his footwork and grab with his long arms, but it was too late to change the outcome. Judges Tony Castellano (USA), Lou Filippo (USA), and Sergio Silvi (Italy) scored it 117-111, 118-110, and 118-111, respectively, all for the champ. Bazan improved to 33-2-1 (23), while Sakamoto, who had failed to win the WBC belt on a split decision to Johnston in July of '97, dropped to 30-3 (22). The referee was Richard Steele (USA).

Promoters: Teiken Promotions, Top Rank
(8-23-98)
Joe Koizumi

Johnny Tapia W 10 Carlos Hernandez

Las Vegas, Nevada: IBF junior bantamweight champ Tapia, 119, Albuquerque, New Mexico, bled from a bad cut over his left eye from an accidental butt in the fifth round, but never lost his cool in winning a unanimous 10-round non-title decision over aggressive Carlos Hernandez, 119, Indio, California, at the Las Vegas Hilton.

Tapia, 44-0-2 (24), was originally slated to meet Hernandez June 6 at Madison Square Garden, but the bout was shelved when Evander Holyfield's WBA/IBF heavyweight title defense was canceled due to challenger Henry Akinwande contracting hepatitis.

Unranked Hernandez, 14-5 (5), was a pleasant surprise for ringsiders and perhaps for Tapia, too, considering the pride of New Mexico got a superb workout in his first outing in six months. There were no knockdowns, but both fighters were bleeding at the finish, Hernandez from the nose as a result of Tapia's snapping jab.

Although Tapia, 31, set the tempo of the action in virtually every round, the quick-handed 22-year-old Hernandez' combinations and solid jaw had the respect of the champion before the final bell.

Tapia, collecting $180,000, lauded Hernandez' overall effort.

"I respect Carlos Hernandez to have the stamina to go the distance with me. Once Hernandez hit me with his head and I was cut, the bleeding wouldn't stop. I guess if I'm not bleeding, it's not a fight," Tapia quipped.

"I dedicated this fight to Roberto Duran," Tapia continued. "It's hard to see a legend go out like that. If there is anything I can do for him, I want Roberto to know I'll be there for him."

Hernandez, who got the biggest purse of his career at $15,000, was delighted to finish on his feet against the hard-hitting Tapia.

"I'm happy to be fighting Johnny Tapia and be able to take everything he threw at me," Hernandez said. "Sometimes it was a little bit dirty, but Tapia is one of the best fighters out there. I need more experience, but I want to fight the best. I'll be back."

In the judges' scoring, Glenn Throwbridge (USA) and Bill Graham (USA) had it 98-91, while Al Siciliano (USA) saw it 99-90. THE RING's tab was 97-93. The referee was Joe Cortez (USA).

"I have made 13 defenses of my junior bantamweight title, so maybe it's time to move on," Tapia said, referring to the WBO belt he's held since 1994. (He has defended the IBF title twice.) "I understand Don King is trying to work out a title fight with WBO 118-pound champ Jorge Eliecer Julio of Colombia. It would be a great fight wherever it is."

Television: USSB
Promoter: Don King Productions
(8-29-98)
Jack Welsh

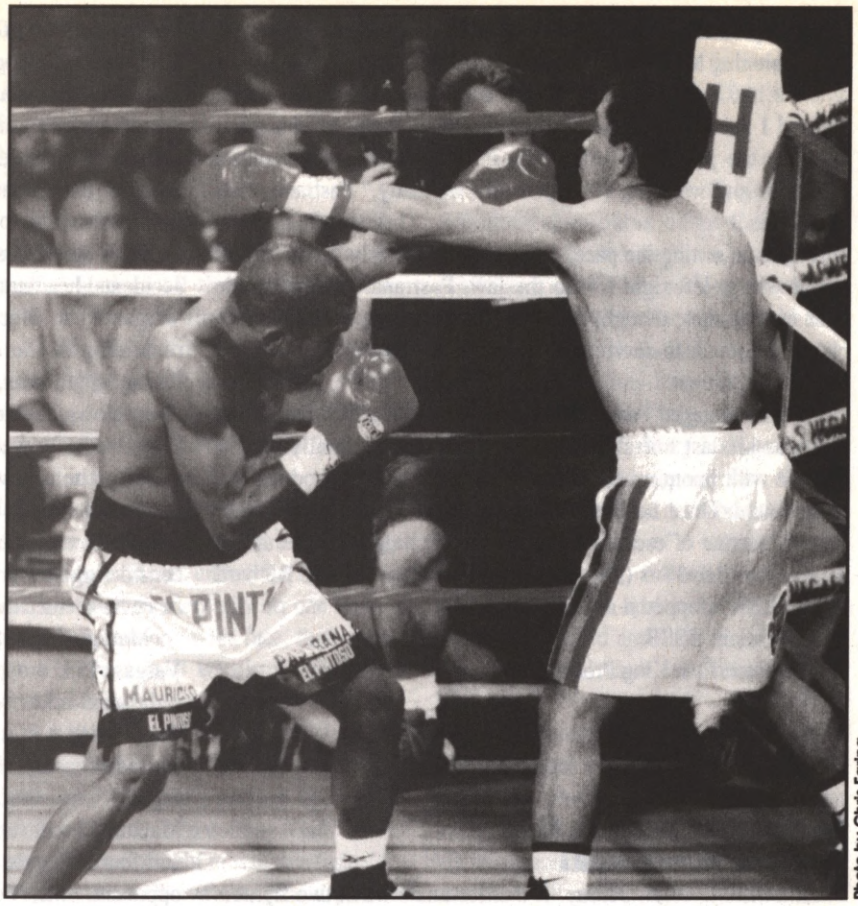


Photo by Chris Farina

Pastrana fires a left underneath a shot from Murillo

Mauricio Pastrana KO 9 Carlos Murillo

Las Vegas, Nevada: Pastrana, 108¾, Colombia, knocked out Murillo, 107, Panama, at 2:50 of the ninth round, but the IBF junior flyweight title he was to defend was declared vacant when he could not make weight.

Pastrana, set to make the second title defense of his second reign, was 1¾ pounds over the 108-pound limit at the official weigh-in 24 hours before the fight. The Nevada State Athletic Commission gave the champion an extra 2½ hours to make the weight. But he lost the crown on the scales, unable to get down to 108. In accordance with IBF rules, Murillo, a former WBA junior fly champion, would have captured the crown if he had beaten Pastrana in the scheduled 12-round bout.

Pastrana, who earned $20,000, wasn't too dismayed in blowing

the championship in the city where he first won it in January '97 by decisioning Michael Carbajal.

"We had a little trouble at the weigh-in, but I think I have showed I have what it takes to be champion. I can be champion again in the junior flyweight class, or in the flyweight class. Whatever and wherever it happens, I'll be ready," Pastrana, 19-0 (16), said.

Pastrana, setting the pace, dropped Murillo early in the second round with a left-right-left to the jaw. Pastrana became erratic with his punches, though, trying to finish his opponent. Murillo clinched enough to survive the round, and then got on his horse for a steady retreat.

Murillo engaged Pastrana in a mini-war in the fifth round, but that was his last hurrah. The Colombian clouter finally caught Murillo with booming combinations to the head and body in the ninth round. Once he pinned the challenger on the ropes, there was no avenue of escape. Pastrana was pitching big time, and a weary Murillo, 37-6 (29), was catching when referee Richard Steele (USA) stopped it at 2:50 of the ninth.

Television: USSB
Promoter: Don King Productions
(8-29-98)
Jack Welsh

Fernando Vargas KO 6 Darren Maciunski

Atlantic City, New Jersey: It's unfortunate when two fighters put on an exciting show, and the referee is the center of attention afterward. Top-ranked IBF junior middleweight contender Vargas further proved himself by overcoming a nasty cut to dominate his toughest opponent yet, while the always game Maciunski displayed the kind of desire and toughness that should earn him more quality bouts in the future. But it was the actions of referee Jim Condon (USA) that had the crowd of 2,602 at the Atlantic City Convention Center booing when this fine tussle came to an end.

With blood streaming from above his left eye (caused by an accidental headbutt, not a punch as Condon had incorrectly ruled), Vargas froze Maciunski along the ropes with just 10 seconds remaining in the sixth round. The unbeaten 20-year-old from Oxnard, California, caught the 28-year-old Maciunski with several clean blows, including three that snapped his head back, but the Pine Beach, New Jersey, native appeared neither hurt nor unable to defend himself when Condon stepped in with just three seconds left in the round. In the referee's defense, he didn't know how much time remained, but his stoppage was somewhat unwarranted considering how competitive Maciunski had been and the fact that he never seemed dazed.

Maciunski, 155, never seemed in control either, however. Vargas, 153, dropped Maciunski for a two-count with a counter right hand midway through the first, and scored another knockdown with a similar punch in the second. He couldn't put Maciunski away, though, and "Checkmate" appeared to be working his way into the fight by round's end. Vargas outdueled Maciunski with combinations to the body and head in the third and fourth rounds, but also absorbed several right hands from his opponent. Still, "Ferocious Fernando" seemed in complete control until their heads came together at the end of the round, leaving the Californian with a cut that would require 12 stitches to repair.

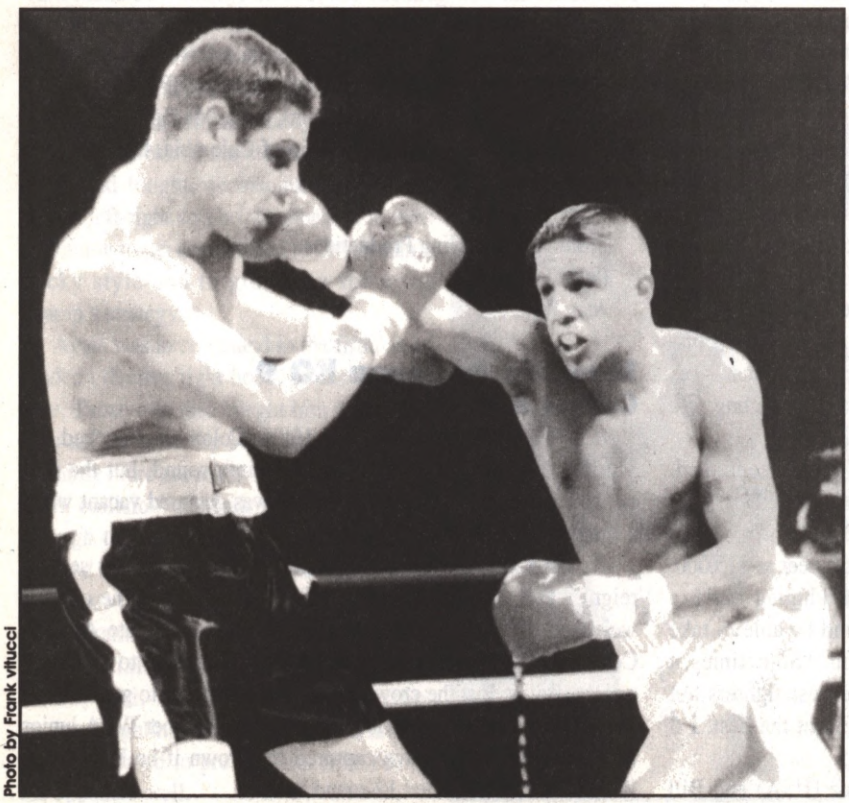


Photo by Frank Vitucci

Vargas catches Maciunski with a sharp right early in the contest

Wanting to bring the suddenly dangerous situation to an end as quickly as possible, Vargas came out more aggressively in the fifth, but ended up taking almost as many shots as he landed. But in the sixth, his left-right combinations found the mark with more effect, setting up the assault along the ropes that would lead to the stoppage.

"The stoppage was a little premature," Maciunski, 16-6 (6), said afterward. "We get paid to fight, so let us fight."

Vargas, 14-0 (14), agreed the referee's intervention may have come too quickly, but felt the result would have been the same regardless. "I know I would have run him down," he said. "A few more shots like that, and he would've been out."

Condon insisted afterward that he had stepped in at the right time. "Who knows how much damage a kid like [Vargas] can do in three seconds? A kid with hands that fast? Better to stop it one punch too soon than one punch too late."

Television: HBO
Promoter: Main Events
(8-22-98)
Eric Raskin ■

Gatti vs. Robinson

(Continued from page 21)

spoke. "Arturo, come Saturday night, I'm looking for you to be in my face for a whole hour. It's gonna be a great fight. And I'm gonna be victorious."

Great fights are not created in a vacuum. Exactly the right mix of personalities and styles are far more important than records and rankings. Robinson has always had the smooth footwork, savvy defense, and slashing combinations of a classic boxer, but his macho Philly roots have lured him into more than one give-and-take brawl. Against Gatti he would have to utilize an artful blend of both boxing and slugging. Tit-for-tat exchanges would prove catastrophic, but you can't beat Gatti with defense, you've got to keep cracking him if you're going to have a chance of surviving his kamikaze onslaughts.

Ironically, Robinson's major limitation, the lack of punching power (he hasn't scored a kayo in three years), also contributed to making the fight as exhilarating as it was. Against a fighter with Robinson's moves *and* a knockout punch, Gatti probably wouldn't have made it out of the first round. But then again, heavy hitters have to sit down on their punches, which momentarily robs them of their mobility and gives their adversary an opportunity to land his own bomb. Either way, chances are that a short, brutal encounter would materialize. But the combination of strengths and weakness Gatti and Robinson brought into the ring were, along with their profound desire to prevail, perfectly balanced to produce a donneybrook.

The fight, sponsored by Bally's Park Place and promoted by Main Events, started with an explosion, as Robinson, determined to earn Gatti's immediate respect, opened with a trio of rights to the head. Gatti, who began to swell beneath his left eye less than a minute into the fight, gleefully fired back, winging hooks calculated to cripple. It was a round reminiscent of the opening stanza of the Marvelous Marvin Hagler-Thomas "Hit Man" Hearns war, and when the bell rang to temporarily interrupt the carnage, the already roaring crowd of 2,602 at the Boardwalk Convention Center Ballroom raised its decibel level another couple of notches. This was what everybody had been waiting for: a no-nonsense throwdown worthy of mention alongside the epic brawls of years gone by. In other words, a typical Gatti fight.

After more sizzling action in the second and third, Robinson, already with a substantial lead on all three official scorecards, suffered the first of three crises in the fourth. He was moving well and pretty much popping Gatti at will when a thudding right caught him on top of the head and sent him stumbling to the floor in a neutral corner. Had Robinson not been ducking at the time, the shot may very well have connected with a more vulnerable part of his head and ended the fight. As it was, he rested momentarily on one knee, a puzzled expression on his face, then pulled himself erect well within referee Earl Morton's count.

"I know what a lot of people were thinking when I went down," said Robinson. "'He ain't getting up.' I was hurt, but I had to keep coming. Gatti would have killed me tonight to win this fight."

Ignoring Lou Duva's screamed plea to "take your time," Gatti went for the finish with wild abandon. But Robinson, fully recovered, avoided disaster and fought back with crisp combinations. All three judges gave Gatti the round, but Robinson had been so effective before and after the knockdown, judge Melvina Latham only gave the transplanted Canadian a one-point margin.

Gatti, who had gained 16 pounds after weighing in at 136 the day before the fight (compared to 8½ pounds for Robinson), enjoyed success with his left hook to the body in the fifth. But he was outpunched in a blistering exchange and tagged with three stinging rights late in the round.

Robinson, 26-2 (10), really unloaded in the sixth, hammering Gatti, who had been leaking blood from the bloated area beneath his left eye since the third, with every punch at his disposal. Gatti, 29-3 (24), was wobbled and seemed in imminent danger of going down, but that's always been when the former IBF junior lightweight champion is at his brutal best. He lashed out with a right that clipped Robinson on the chin and sent him staggering backward. Once more, Robinson's superb defensive instincts saved him. He was backing away when Gatti's right landed, and therefore didn't absorb the full impact, retaining enough bounce in his legs to enable him to survive Gatti's frantic followup attack.

Except for the eighth, when Gatti scored well with jabs and right hands, Robinson dominated down the stretch. Although he landed his share of shots, the ninth was another punishing round for Gatti, and everybody knew he would need a miraculous finish to pull out a victory. But Gatti specializes in miracles, and he almost saved the day with a booming left in the 10th. The Hail-Mary hook landed on Robinson's forehead, causing him to stagger into the ropes like somebody doing a comic impersonation of a stunned boxer. But this was no act, and when asked later how badly he was hurt in the final round, Robinson laughed and said, "I ain't gonna tell you no lie. I can't even remember the 10th round."

But everyone else who saw the fight will remember it as a perfect exclamation point to a classic encounter. And even though Gatti and his fans had to be horribly disappointed that he fell a punch or two short of another back-from-the-brink triumph, everybody was ecstatic about the 30 minutes of unadulterated ferocity that resulted in a split decision for Robinson by scores of 96-94 (Steve Weisfield), 98-93 (Latham), and 93-96 (Ed Leahy). THE RING also favored Robinson, 96-95.

"If you want to know what *Boxing After Dark* is all about, you saw it tonight," said DiBella.

The same could be said about boxing. If skeptics want to know what keeps the game's long-suffering fans coming back after so much frustration, so much controversy, and so many crummy fights, Robinson and Gatti provided the answer.

Thank you, guys. We needed that. ■

Israel Cardona

(Continued from page 23)

the chance to meet him then. Pito has the type of character I'd look for in a boxer or a person, and I was drawn to him. I don't handle any other fighters, and I'm not looking to handle any others. I want to make Pito a world champion, and help him put that title to use for all the kids he helps."

Boston fight promoter Rich Cappiello arranged a bout between his brother, 34-year-old veteran Mike Cappiello, and the kid from Hartford back in 1996. It was seen as a way to vault the boxing Cappiello back into national contention by beating the young upstart. But Cardona totally outboxed the vastly more experienced Cappiello, and with the aid of a broken hand suffered by Cappiello, knocked him down and stopped him for the first time in his decade-long pro career. Rich Cappiello may have been expected to be bitter. Instead, he went out of his way to bring Cardona to Boston for bigger bouts.

"We spent a lot of time together, while I was putting the deal together with Pito and John Cippola, his manager," Rich Cappiello recalled. "Pito always showed a lot of respect for Mike, so there was never bad blood. Pito is a real gentleman, and I like his ethics, which is a rare thing to say about a boxer. He's involved with kids, the Scouts, and he tries to be a positive role model. He's a class act."

Although Cardona has an older brother who boxed, and won a New England title fighting as "Tito" Cardona, young Israel gravitated to team-oriented sports. As an 11-year-old, he was named the best running back in the local youth football league. He also liked baseball, and still does, happily joining the crowd at a recent Norwich NaviGators game where the Yankees double-A affiliate was playing the Bowie BaySox.

Boxing history is replete with stories of kids introduced to the sport by youth programs. Cardona, however, may be the first to come to boxing because he already had his own youth program. By the time he was 15, Cardona was already trying to be a role model to younger kids in his urban neighborhood, and had one protege who wanted to try boxing. Pito didn't know very much about the sport, so before he started to teach the other kids, he figured he'd better learn himself. A Hartford cop named Jeff Chickarella allowed Cardona to use the local PAL gym, and helped him with the basics. Just like that, Cardona had his own program, even if he didn't have much equipment.

"I had this particular kid, Frankie Echevarria, who kept following me around wanting to learn boxing," Cardona recalled with a chuckle. "I had to learn the basics myself, and did in about two months. I worked with Frankie, and he won a New England Junior Olympic title his first time out, so that motivated me to continue. But teaching Frankie was really the whole point of my continuing."

Echevarria, now 18, won the regional 1998 Golden Gloves at novice, and his mentor is now trying to get him into the Olympic Educational Center in Marquette, Michigan, a program that trains some of America's finest amateurs and has a concurrent college program.

Cardona went on to organize and promote three amateur boxing cards, two of which turned a profit. He'd even gone out and found sponsors for his various programs and shows.

"I remember stuff I did back then, and it amazes me," he admitted. "The Hartford PAL took a chance letting a young kid run a program all by himself, so I worked hard."

But when Chickarella retired from the police force in 1993, the amateur program began to lose momentum. Cardona decided to turn pro, even though his own meager amateur background consisted mostly of impromptu exhibitions. (The kids program survives, with Echevarria now on the Board of Directors, and Cardona's uncle serving as head trainer.)

"I never had any expectations for a pro career," Cardona admitted. "I never took it seriously, and never trained seriously at first. I just wanted to make some money and keep the program going."

Cardona breezed through his first 14 bouts, scoring 11 knockouts and basically overpowering his foes with his potent left hook and crunching bodyshots. Then on January 7, 1995, he met a well-traveled trialhorse named Robert Parkman in Providence. Cardona thought he had the fight won several times, but Parkman kept battling back, and for the first time in his career, Cardona realized his stamina was shaky. He stopped Parkman in five rounds, but immediately began wondering how he could improve his haphazard training.

"Parkman was a tough fight because I was out of shape," he said bluntly. "I dropped him in the second and thought I was home free. But he got up and kept coming at me. I was exhausted by the time I stopped him, and only I knew how close I'd come to blowing that fight."

Shortly after that, Cardona, then 19, drove out to nearby Wethersfield, where a restaurant had an all-you-can-eat buffet. Cardona gorged himself, and walked out wondering if he'd eaten his way to middleweight. Driving back, Cardona noticed a gym with an "Open House" sign out front, and stopped to investigate, thinking that maybe he needed to work out away from the demands of his kids programs. The owner of the Omni Sports Center was John Cipolla, who had some boxing background of his own back in Kansas City, and who'd worked with New England fighters Mike Query and Sean Malone. Cipolla and Cardona hit it off immediately, and Cipolla agreed to oversee the youngster's training.

"I had quit working with pros, just because the amateurs are a lot easier to deal with," Cipolla pointed out. "Pito and I both made a commitment. I stressed to him that you can't do this as a hobby. I could see that he was raw, but he had many things you can't teach, like heart, courage, and desire."

The first outing for the new tandem was May 19, 1995, and Cardona cruised to an easy 10-round decision over veteran Francisco Cruz. "John got me in shape, and I did 10 rounds easily," Cardona noted. "I realized I'd known nothing about conditioning. I'd won some of my first fights just on heart."

After that Cipolla took over complete management, and before that summer was over, Cardona met veteran Jeff Mayweather. "Mayweather was a huge step up for me," Cardona said. "I was so focused in my training that I weighed in at 130 pounds [actually 129] with no trouble."

Cardona outboxed Mayweather over 12 rounds, and after a couple of more wins, the showdown with New England rival Cappiello was set for April '96.

"People didn't believe it was a simple fight for me, but it happened exactly as my trainer had planned," Cardona said. "I outboxed him until the time was right. After Cappiello, my ambition to be a world champion was growing."

Cardona flattened the pesky Cruz in one round in a rematch. Two more wins followed, and then it was announced that he'd meet former world champion John-John Molina at Foxwoods Casino. At the

last moment, Molina dropped off the show, and Cardona met substitute Hector Lopez instead. The February 16, 1997, match would be a tough learning experience, as Lopez outhustled Cardona and handed him his first defeat via 10-round decision.

"Molina was going to be my first big fight, and having it against a fellow Puerto Rican was also special," Cardona explained. "When he pulled out, I lost it. I was totally unfocused. Lopez was a Mexican, and I figured he'd fight me, but he ran all night. I spent the whole fight trying to throw bombs."

"I think in the Lopez fight, both of us were deluded by Pito's ability to knock people out," Cipolla added. "We had no complaints. It was a close loss, but he learned from it."

Cardona got back on track two months later, with a sixth-round TKO of Steve Larrimore, on a show promoted by Rich Cappiello. In May 1997, barely a month later, Cappiello had an ESPN card slated for Boston, and needed an opponent for former IBF junior welterweight champion Charles Murray. Cardona and Cipolla jumped at the chance, even though Murray was a natural 140-pounder. It turned out to be a spectacular battle, with ebbs and surges on both sides, but after the final bell, Murray was awarded the decision. Suddenly the Hartford kid had two losses within three months.

"I threw more punches and landed more punches than Charles Murray, but he got the decision," Cardona said. "I realized that my strength was just as good as his, though, and I knew I'd never lost at 135 and below."

"It was a throwback to Tony Zale-Rocky Graziano," Cipolla added, "and we got robbed. I got chills watching Pito come on in that eighth round. Despite the loss, that fight made a statement about his will."

Two months after the Murray loss, Cipolla put Cardona in tough again, with top contender Ivan Robinson. Many wondered about the logic of such a difficult match so soon. But Cipolla and Cardona had scouted Robinson when he'd challenged Phillip Holiday for the IBF lightweight title at the nearby Mohegan Sun Casino, and they were confident.

"I respect Ivan, but it was a simple fight for me," Cardona said of his three-round demolition of the man who recently upset Arturo Gatti *(see page 19)*. "That fight got me much closer to a world title."

Cardona has racked up three more solid wins since then, the latest a July decision over Richie Kiley at Foxwoods, which views Pito as a house fighter.

"My brother just called me from the library to tell me I'm ranked fourth in the WBC," laughed Cardona, who is ranked fifth by the WBA and second by the IBF.

A late-summer bout with ex-champ Steve Johnston fell apart when Johnston balked. Meanwhile, Cipolla and Gelb are working the phones daily and sifting through the offers, but Cardona stays so busy he doesn't let it bother him. Heck, he's just as concerned about running his Cub Scout pack. When a friend heard about a Cub Scout group that needed a Cubmaster, he knew Pito was the one to call. Cardona enjoys that diversion, and has even worked out a deal with Foxwoods to get his Cub Scouts into boxing shows for free, with them serving as the color guard during the national anthem. For the Kiley fight, Cardona led his Cubs into the ring, in full uniform himself, for the "Star Spangled Banner" during prefight festivities, then retired to his dressing room until it was time to perform.

Cardona works days at Cipolla's Omni Sports Complex, leading exercise classes and serving as a personal trainer. He also has his eye on an inner-city location for his most cherished goal: his own boxing and recreation center in the old neighborhood. Recently, he met U.S. Senator Chris Dodd, took him to the site, and briefed him on the concept. Cipolla has promised to lend any support and advice he can, and as Cardona's boxing success gives him a higher profile, he's discovering more and

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more people eager to help. Even though he is currently focused on garnering a world title shot, the refreshing thing is that it's not the only goal in his life, and probably not even the most important one.

"If things go well this year, I can establish my whole future," Cardona said. "I'll do whatever it takes to win that world title. But if I never get anywhere else, I'm still proud of getting where I am. I never expected to be one of the best four or five lightweights in the world. I do wish I had more time for my Cub Scouts and my boxing program kids, but I will have that time when I retire. When I was young, boxing was the last thing on my mind, but boxing has worked out well for me. After my career, I'm going to coach, train, and have my own program. By next year, I could have my dream: my own recreation center." ■

Jay Miller is THE RING'S New England correspondent.

Mills Lane

(Continued from page 57)

less, lazy sonofabitch, or being a man's man. The choice was easy. I was forced to grow up, and in the process I became convinced that he who lives without discipline dies without dignity. I learned how to fight through pain in order to get the job done. I learned that no job was undignified if done with dignity. I learned how to take care of business, whether it was cooking my own meals or washing my own clothes, or picking up after myself.

More than anything else, though, the Marines taught me what leadership was all about. Of course, you never really grasp the principle until you've had the misfortune of being led by an asshole. I had one sergeant in particular who corrupted authority. If I saw him today, I'd jump in his face and say, "Okay, brother, you and me are going outside." I'd kick his ass in a heartbeat.

The sergeant led by intimidation. He was a s___-bird, which is the worst insult you can give a Marine. When payday came and he had money, everyone got liberty. When he ran out of money, everybody had field day. We stayed in our barracks and cleaned it from bulkhead to bulkhead. This guy was a no-good sonofabitch. I despised him and anyone else who bullies someone simply because they have the authority to do so. That holds true to this very day.

Leadership is not yelling and screaming at someone because he or she makes a mistake. Leadership is not pissing and moaning every time something doesn't go your way. Leadership is never asking someone to do a task that you are unwilling to do yourself. If I have the authority to command or order someone to do something, they'll do it willingly because they'll know I have the stones to do the job myself. It doesn't take guts to do something if you're not afraid to do it.

There's a story that epitomizes everything I learned in the Corps, one that I heard about the ParaMarines. Because the Corps didn't have a paratrooper training facility at its disposal, the Marine colonel who was to command the unit asked permission of the general at Fort Benning, Georgia, to use the Army's.

"No problem," the general said. "How long will you and your men be here?"

"How long will it take you to train my men how to fold a parachute?" the Marine colonel responded.

"Hell," the general said, "I can teach you how to do that in a couple of hours. But that's not how the training works. We'll have to teach your men how to jump from the respective towers, how to roll on impact so they won't break a leg or ankle. We're talking about several weeks."

The Marine colonel said, "Begging your pardon, sir, but all I will need is a half a day. All the training my men will need is how to properly fold a parachute."

Of course, the Army general was flabbergasted. He said, "Okay, but once you get your men up in that plane and over a target area, how in the hell are you going to get them to jump out?"

"I'll order them out," said the Marine colonel. "When I say jump, they'll jump, because they know I'll be jumping right alongside them."

The Marine Corps first taught me how to crawl, then how to walk like a man. And when properly led, I would fight my way into hell itself. I would make that terrifying journey because I'd know the officers leading the way and the NCO's on my flanks would ensure my survival.

When I was discharged from the Corps in 1959, I no longer doubted myself. I was so confident of my ability to succeed that the only thing I feared was fear itself. No longer willing to accept mediocrity, I had my feet firmly planted on a ground of my own choosing. Because I *wanted* to enroll at the University of Nevada-Reno instead of being told that was where I would attend school, because I *wanted* to go to law school and become a lawyer, a district attorney, and eventually a judge, I worked as I never worked before.

The young man who was satisfied with a C+ at Middlesex was long gone, replaced by a hard-nosed Leatherneck who was disciplined to such a degree that average work was unacceptable. As such, I was a B+ student at UN-R. My goals were established, and I fought my way through the grind of academia.

My IQ had not increased one bit in the four-year gap between my senior year at Middlesex and my freshman year at UN-R. What had changed was my attitude toward life. I came to believe that no task was impossible. I was of the opinion that the sorry phrase, "I can't do it" no longer existed in my limited vocabulary.

I hated schoolwork just as much at the University of Nevada-Reno as I had at Middlesex. But I endured, because I had a goal and nothing was going to stop me from reaching it. That book, that inane course in physics or geology, was no different from anyone I'd fought in the ring. Instead of keeping my hands up, my chin tucked, and moving forward, I kept my dreams held high and my brain focused, and I moved upward and onward.

Because I'd learned that you can't lead others until you've learned to properly lead yourself, I continued to inch closer to being all I could possibly be. Although it proved to be an ongoing process, it wasn't impossible, because I continued to follow the examples set by individuals who had earned my total respect. Men such as Rocky Marciano, Willie Pep, Sugar Ray Robinson, and Archie Moore—magnificent fighters, one and all. Men gifted with speed and power, class and magnetism.

Whenever they entered the ring, the world watched in wonder. It seemed as if they could do no wrong. Our troubles no longer seemed that important, because if Marciano and Moore or Pep and Robinson could surmount all barriers, then by God so could we. In a modern context, I'm

referring to men such as Muhammad Ali and Ray Leonard and Marvin Hagler. On the whole, they were true warriors who maximized their brilliant talents and unflinchingly charged head-on toward their goal. Nothing was going to stand in their way. They fought through the daily aches and pains, through the trauma of disappointment and failure of life, and eventually succeeded, no matter the obstacle.

In the spring of 1996, I honestly believed that Riddick Bowe was in this category. I'd seen all three of his fights against Evander Holyfield, the first two of which were as good as any in recent memory, and I considered Bowe to be the best of the heavyweights. His tools were far better than Evander Holyfield's, and at least one notch above Mike Tyson's.

Bowe had it all—size, strength, an impressive chin, and devastating punching ability. Although he couldn't knock you dead, he did have a good jab, a better-than-average right hand, and a decent hook, and he knew how to handle himself on the inside.

Despite these impressive credentials, though, Riddick Bowe did not maximize his capabilities. He would not pay the price to be the best. Although I liked the guy, he was, in my mind, a failure because he didn't go as far as he could.

Evander Holyfield, on the other hand, has more heart than anyone. I worked the fight when he won the cruiserweight title from Carlos DeLeon in Las Vegas on April 9, 1988. Holyfield's trainers had their hands full getting him to make the 195-pound limit. The first time he hit the scales, he weighed 196. They walked him around a bit, then he weighed 195½. Holyfield's trainers had to put him on the scales three more times before he finally hit 195 on the nose. And then he went out and fought a great fight against DeLeon.

Holyfield was hurting—having to shed pounds he should not have been forced to shed weakened him. Yet he rose above it and fought a truly magnificent fight. He had it all going for him that night. In fact, that's the best I've ever seen him.

Afterward, I listened to what Evander had to say to the press. Normally, what you hear in these sessions is the usual street jive and back-alley nonsense about being the baddest cat in town. With Holyfield, though, the message was entirely different. First, he praised DeLeon. And then, instead of tooting his own horn, he spoke of his faith. Granted, everything he said was steeped in religion. But the manner in which he conveyed his convictions was sincere, right from the heart. He was so humble that I found it impossible to find fault with him.

I remember someone asking Holyfield about anger, and he said, "Like the Bible says, you've got to be able to control your anger. It's an asset to control your emotions and not allow the devil to take control. It's harder living for Christ than it is living for the devil. Live for the devil, and all you have to do it sit back, relax, and enjoy it. I don't deny that I am a Christian, but it's no good to brag about it. The Bible says, 'The light should shine so that people would know without even asking.' I believe that."

Holyfield was absolutely incredible—a fighter spouting off like an evangelist. I was impressed. Once the media had its fill, I chatted with Evander for a while and asked what his ambitions were. Without hesitation he said, "I'm going to be the heavyweight champion of the world."

I'm no dummy. I knew Mike Tyson was, without doubt, the baddest man on the face of this planet. Mike ruled a division filled with contenders in name only. Yet here was this unknown entity, Evander Holyfield, a bright-eyed, Bible-quoting cruiserweight with the biggest heart I've ever seen, making as bold a statement as I'd ever heard, one that most boxing insiders would consider to be blasphemous.

But then again, I had just watched him fight as great a fight as you would ever want to see, and now I was looking him square in the eye. What I saw was a superior being with total commitment and an absolute belief in his convictions. I know it sounds crazy, but I thought he had a shot.

Next thing I knew, Holyfield ran up the score, dropping James Tillis, Pinklon Thomas, Michael Dokes, Adilson Rodrigues, and Alex Stewart. He fought through fatigue, he fought through disparaging comments from Tyson and his promoter, Don King. In the meantime,

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Tyson had his lights turned out by James "Buster" Douglas in Tokyo. And then Holyfield turned out Douglas' lights at The Mirage in Las Vegas on October 25, 1990, exactly 32 months and 16 days from the moment he said he would become the heavyweight champion of the world. Now that's what I call perseverance.

Twenty-five months later, Evander would lose the title to Riddick Bowe. One year later, he would decision Bowe to win back the title, only to lose it five months down the road to Michael Moorer. Yet throughout these trials and tribulations, Evander Holyfield endured despite ridicule from the media for being a "washed-up has-been," despite calls from the medical profession and knowledgeable boxing insiders, including myself, that to continue fighting would be to guarantee pugilistic dementia.

I refereed the fight in Atlanta, Georgia, in 1991 when Holyfield was forced to call upon every ounce of courage he possessed to eventually defeat Bert Cooper via technical knockout. What bothered me the most about that fight was the fact that Evander was getting hit too often and too hard by Cooper, a journeyman fighter at best. If I had been Holyfield's manager, I would have pulled him aside after that fight and said, "Listen, son, you have all the money you need. You've conquered all the horizons you've wanted to conquer by becoming the undefeated champion. It's time to hang it up. You need to walk away from the business, and you need to do it now."

But Evander refused to quit on himself. Almost 30 months after the Cooper fight, I refereed the Holyfield-Moorer bout, which was Evander at his lowest ebb. He appeared to be en route to an easy victory after knocking Moorer to the canvas in the second round, but then everything went south. All of a sudden, Holyfield was confused and out of synch. He struggled to throw punches and his defense against Moorer's right jab was almost nonexistent. Evander would get nailed, then take a couple steps back and frown. It was almost as if he didn't know where he was.

I'm not being overly dramatic when I say that I suspected he might be suffering the initial effects of pugilistic dementia. I felt so strong about this that I approached Shelly Finkel, Evander's manager, after the fight and said, "Get him out, Shelly—get him out *now*. Something's not right with him."

I believe Finkel had the same suspicions, because he turned to me and said, "Don't worry, Mills. We'll retire him."

It never happened. As it turned out, Evander had not fully recovered from his previous bout with Bowe and was suffering severe pain in his left shoulder, which prevented him from either going on the attack or curtailing Moorer's right-handed onslaught. Holyfield's problems escalated after the fight when he suffered a severe case of dehydration. Then, when properly hydrated, he was given morphine for his injured shoulder at a Las Vegas hospital, and complications set in. Holyfield was subsequently misdiagnosed as having a heart condition—a noncompliant left ventricle. What all of us so-called hotshot boxing experts thought was a bad heart turned out to be nothing more than a bad case of fatigue coupled with the usual aches and pains associated with prize fighting. When Holyfield later claimed to have been healed by evangelist Benny Hinn, people scoffed. When he passed a series of medical tests at the Mayo Clinic, people shook their heads in disbelief. And once he was relicensed and started reestablishing himself in the ring, people sat back and told themselves: "Yeah, well, he might look okay against Ray Mercer, but Mike Tyson will hand him his head on a platter."

Through it all, Evander Holyfield kept right on smiling. He turned a deaf ear to all of the remarks and continued to attend to business—working out each and every day, refining his magnificent physique, preparing himself just as thoroughly as he had prepared himself almost nine years earlier when I'd first seen him battle Carlos DeLeon.

Of course, you already know the rest of the story. Thirty-one months after losing the title to Michael Moorer, Evander calmly stepped through the ropes in Vegas and promptly beat the living hell out of Mike Tyson to regain that which Holyfield has always vowed was rightfully his, the heavyweight championship of the world.

While Holyfield surpassed all obstacles by turning it up a notch and working even harder, Riddick Bowe was confronting less obtrusive difficulties and doing what he has always done best, ducking responsibility and sulking away. The man with the superior tools, the greater gifts, continued to quit on himself.

People believe that everything changes as time marches on. But the truth is, the real things never change. Those possessing courage persist. Those who lack it merely exist.

Eddie Futch, whom I always call Mr. Futch, is one of the greatest trainers of all-time. Besides being brilliant, he is a gentleman possessing an extraordinary good nature and unremitting patience. But even Mr. Futch has his limits. Not too long ago, he pulled Riddick Bowe aside and said, "I cannot deal with this anymore. I can't deal with someone who has the tools that you have, yet continues to abuse them. You say you'll stay in shape, but you don't. You say you'll train, but you don't. Of all the fighters I have been around in this business, you could be as good as any. But you won't listen to me. You think you have all the answers, but you don't. I've had it. I'm done with you. I'm gone."

And once Mr. Futch walked away from Bowe, there was nothing to stop Bowe from walking away from himself.

The real tragedy of Riddick Bowe and people like him is that, although possessing all the physical attributes—strength and size, a good chin, a pretty good ticker from bell to bell—these wondrous gifts are of little value unless counterbalanced with discipline. Bowe has little self-control. His best weight was 224, but it was nothing for him to balloon to 280. He wouldn't tend to business. He wouldn't pay the price. He sidestepped through his life, always looking for the easy way out.

If Riddick Bowe would have disciplined himself and done everything that had to be done, he would still be the heavyweight champion of the world today and long into the foreseeable future. That this never happened is a shame, yet Bowe has only himself to blame. He had all the answers, and he thought people like Mr. Futch were idiots. Bowe continued to quit. Bad habits never die.

Like so much of today's society, Riddick Bowe sought easy answers to difficult questions. He was always looking for the quick fix instead of employing the tried-and-true remedy of hard work and perseverance. Early in 1997, however, given his penchant for laziness, he perplexed me even further by enlisting in the Marine Corps.

"It's been a lifetime dream," Bowe said the day he arrived for boot camp at Parris Island, South Carolina.

Of course, I wished him well, hoping this would be his big chance to take control of his life. I figured once he got into boot camp, got his ears back, and did everything that he had to do, he would find out what life was all about. The Marines would surely enhance his character and his ability to realize his full potential.

I should have known better. When Bowe arrived at PI, he bumped head-first into reality. It was the shock of a lifetime, because he couldn't sleep late into the morning and he couldn't eat what he wanted to eat. Drill instructors told him what to do and when to do it. Worse yet, they *demanded* that he show some personal discipline.

It proved to be too much to ask of Riddick Bowe, and he quit after only nine days in the Corps.

"He had trouble adapting," said Marine Major Rick Long, a Parris Island spokesman. "The bottom line is if you don't want to be a Marine, you won't be one."

Or a successful prize fighter for any length of time either.

No matter who you are or what magnificent tools you might have, quitting is a cancerous habit that eats away at your self-respect. Life's losers absolve themselves of responsibility. But those who hang tough, those who knuckle down and say, "The hell with it, I'm gonna survive no matter what," these are the men and women who eventually make it to the top. And stay there.

Evander Holyfield has maximized his better-than-average tools. Superimpose his will, his heart, his desire, his attending to business, and doing the right thing on top of his God-given talents, and you have a true champion. Not just a heavyweight champion in a prize fighting ring, but a heavyweight champion of life.

Just remember this: You weren't put here to take up space. Make things happen, dammit. Just do it. Get the job done. Don't cheat yourself. Let the other guy be the whimpering fool, while you kick butt and take names.

God help us, but if the world ever again goes to war, I want Evander Holyfield in that foxhole with me, because I know I will return home to my beautiful wife and darling sons.

But if I'm guarded by underachievers, then I figure I'm in trouble. ■

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Rex Layne

(Continued from page 61)

But every now and then he recaptured the old magic. Layne and Marciano were together again in the same ring on October 18, 1954, but then-champion Rocky was the referee of what Layne recalls as one of his best fights, a decision win over California heavyweight titlist and ranked contender Willie Bean. However, unlike some opponents who tried to beat each other's brains out, the experience did

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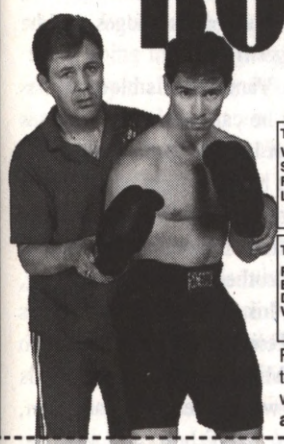

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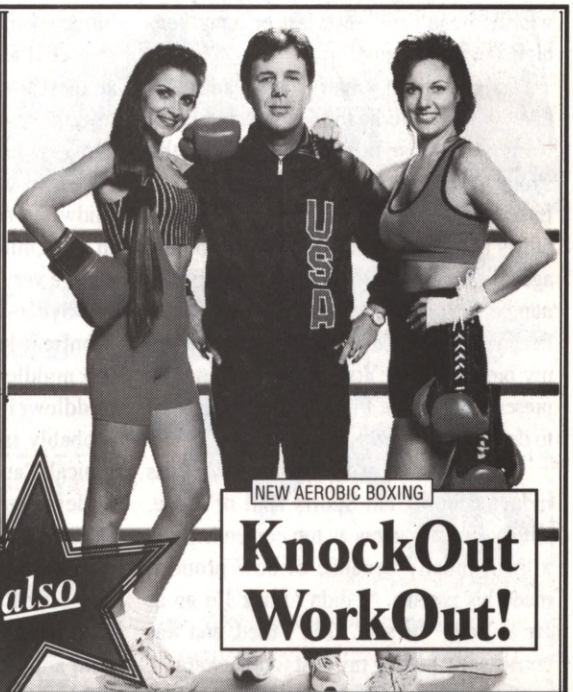

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not bring Rex and Rocky closer together.

"I never got to know Marciano at all," said Layne. "He was cocky as hell in our fight."

On December 11, 1954, Layne and Heinz Neuhaus fought a 10-round draw in Dortmund, Germany. "They don't boo over there, they whistle," said Layne. "You never heard such a shrill mess in your life. The spectators came in and pulled me out of the ring, put me on their shoulders, and carried me to my dressing room. The next year [actually January 22, 1956] it was about the same thing. I gave him a little better beating than I did the time before, and still lost."

It was a crashing blow that caused Layne's retirement and gave him a permanent limp, but it came from a wooden beam and not a fist. Layne was helping a brother raise a barn on the family farm in 1957 when the giant beam they were hoisting into place overhead gave way and fell on Rex.

"It hit me so damned hard in the head I busted my hip," he said. "It happened in the middle of summer, and I spent the rest of the year in the hospital. I was about half-asleep the whole time. Thanks to the hip injury, I use a cane and I'll probably die with it. I can't run very fast or jump very high, but I get around."

Today, almost a half-century since his name was in the headlines, the mail still brings the most famous resident of the Crosslands retirement home outside of Salt Lake City requests for autographs. "God, it blows my mind," said Layne. "For so long ago, it's amazing. It's pretty nice to be the number-one contender in the world. People treat you super. They still do. We just had my birthday here. You couldn't believe the presents and cakes I received. It thrilled me to death."

While he never won the title, Layne was inducted into Utah Sports Hall of Fame, which, like his status as top contender, was a thrill mostly because of how proud it made his parents. "I didn't think I'd go as far as I did," he said. "But I tried, and was consistently putting my best foot forward."

Sometimes a different body part, too.

"I had a lot of laughs," said the Lewiston Larruper, "and a lot of sore noses." ■

Pete Ehrmann, a freelance writer based in West Allis, Wisconsin, is a regular contributor to this magazine.

New Faces

(Continued from page 62)

sional stare from kids riding by on their bikes, and their sparring sessions in the driveway caused small crowds to gather. John Vanderpool would chase his kids around with oversized boxing gloves, drilling them on technique and urging them toward more success, which often meant more dusting for young Syd.

Syd Vanderpool finds himself today dusting off opponents as a middleweight. The 5'10" southpaw from Kitchener, Ontario, has chalked up a 24-1 (15) record. One of the best-kept secrets in Canadian sports, Vanderpool is a quick, precise puncher who is able to switch hands without looking awkward. Though he is coming off his biggest victory to date as a pro, a 12-round decision against veteran Lonny Beasley on June 16, he is frustrated right now, aggravated by the politics that surround the sport of boxing and keep a promising Canadian fighter like himself in the woodlands. What stirs Vanderpool's blood even more is to hear someone as respected as Emanuel Steward, his trainer, suggest that Vanderpool could beat any middleweight in the world—right now. Most of his fights have been in small venues in western Pennsylvania and in the Midwest. Vanderpool is not widely known in the United States yet, but that could change very shortly.

"Syd's good," verified Russ Anber, the Montreal-based trainer who works with top middleweight Otis Grant and junior middleweight Hercules Kyvelos. "He's probably in the same mold as any other typical Canadian fighter, unheard of and underappreciated. He has good sound skills, a heck of a work ethic, and a decent punch. I've seen him get knocked down and get back up and box. He's solid top-10 material without a doubt. He could stay with anyone in the world, even with Otis. If I had to pick an optional title defense, I don't know if I'd pick Syd; he's that dangerous. That would be a helluva fight, Syd's a good fighter. He's talented and has ability. He should be making a move right now."

Hall of Fame trainers like Steward don't work with tomato cans, so Vanderpool obviously has ability. Vanderpool's punching accuracy was something that immediately caught the attention of the legendary trainer. Steward says Vanderpool's deadly blows remind him of those fired by a young Mike McCallum, the three-division former champion. It's high praise coming from Steward, who does not hold back when he talks about Vanderpool's potential to one day be a world champion.

The issue, however, according to Steward, is not Vanderpool's ability in the ring. It's what he does outside the ring. Vanderpool is *not* a discipline problem. To the contrary, the 25-year-old is highly motivated. But boxing is only an important sideline for him, squeezed in behind school, where he's working toward a business degree. He'd like to run a day-care business, or possibly become a stock broker one day. But these outside-of-boxing interests frustrate Steward.

"He has the ability to be a world champion," said Steward, "but without focus and determination, he won't get there. He's an exceptionally talented fighter, but Syd trains for fights and is trying to run everything else every other day. He is a clean liver with lots of talent, I won't dispute that. Syd's a great kid, a very intelligent kid, but that could be a drawback. He has other things going on. He could make it to the big level, but he has to burn all of his bridges, and he has a lot of bridges right now."

Boxing is in Vanderpool's blood; it has been ever since he can remember. He was about five when he first put on a pair of gloves, and had his first fight at 6½ years old. The youngest of five boys (currently ranging in age from 35 to 25), Vanderpool was the baby brother who tagged along, emulating what his older brothers did. His eldest brother, Felix, was a lightweight pro for two years. Middle brother, Fitz, 31, is the Canadian welterweight champion, holds the minor WBF belt, and was the 1997 Canadian National Boxer of the Year (selected by the Canadian Professional Boxing Federation).

Growing up, Syd dabbled in hockey, like most Canadian boys, and even took a break from boxing between the ages of 11 and 16. "I didn't box at all, because boxing wasn't something I chose to do at that time," Vanderpool said. "I just followed

my older brothers, and boxing then was something I didn't want to do. My dad never forced me to box, but he wasn't overly thrilled when I quit. It was always a dream of his for one of his sons to be heavyweight champion of the world. He always saw me as a heavyweight. My dad could be very demanding, and there was some friction there we're still trying to iron out, but I went back to boxing on my own, under my own terms."

One lazy afternoon, his brother Fitz decided to box again after taking a year off. On the spur of the moment, Fitz gave Syd a call and asked him if he wanted to work out. The amateur Provincial Championships began around five months after Syd started back, and he captured the Ontario Province title as a junior welterweight in '89. He was stuck on the sport again, winning the national championship that year, yet was unfazed by his accomplishment.

"I remember getting back home and everyone was so excited about what had happened, and I was like nothing happened," Vanderpool recalled. "It was just like another fight; it wasn't that hard for me. Boxing was always something that came naturally to me."

He finished second at the Canadian Olympic Trials (to Greg Johnson) as a welterweight in '92. "He beat me 15-13, and you better believe I still remember that," Vanderpool said. "It was a big thing going to the Olympics. I guess you could say that was my first big letdown in boxing. That's what you strive for as an amateur; not to reach that was a disappointment."

Vanderpool turned pro in '93, while mixing in odds-and-ends jobs and also going to school. He is handled by his older brother Keith and Ontario businessman Ray Taylor. Vanderpool's goal is to challenge for a world title by this time next year.

"I have to find a promoter who believes in marketing my skills," Vanderpool said. "I've spoken to a few guys, but nothing has materialized. I've come this far, why walk away now and wonder why I wasn't the best? I'd be willing to fight world champions right now, winner take all, to prove it's not all about money. It's about being the best."

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WORLDWIDE RATINGS

The ratings of the three major governing bodies recognized by The Ring are supplied by the organizations themselves. They are updated on these pages as soon as they are made available to us. In this issue, the WBA ratings were compiled as of July 1998, the WBC as of August 1998, and the IBF as of July 1998.

HEAVYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Lennox Lewis (GB)	C	–	–
Evander Holyfield (USA)	–	C	C
Zeljko Mavrovic (CROA)	1	2	7
Ray Mercer (USA)	2	3	4
John Ruiz (USA)	3	4	–
Oliver McCall (USA)	4	–	–
David Tua (NZ)	5	–	–
Larry Donald (USA)	6	–	10
Wladimir Klitchko (UKR)	7	–	–
Axel Schulz (GER)	8	–	–
Andrew Golota (POL)	9	–	–
Michael Grant (USA)	10	7	8
Henry Akinwande (GB)	–	1	5
Jade Scott (USA)	25	5	–
Kirk Johnson (CAN)	–	6	–
Michael Moorer (USA)	21	8	6
Orlin Norris (USA)	–	9	–
Vaughn Bean (USA)	–	10	1
Francois Botha (SA)	23	–	2
Hasim Rahman (USA)	24	–	3
Chris Byrd (USA)	15	–	9

CRUISERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Juan Carlos Gomez (CUBA)	C	–	–
Fabrice Tiozzo (FRA)	–	C	–
Imamu Mayfield (USA)	–	–	C
Jacob Mofokeng (SA)	1	9	3
Johnny Nelson (GB)	2	–	–
Marcelo Dominguez (ARG)	3	–	–
Alexei Ilin (RUS)	4	–	–
Nate Miller (USA)	5	2	6
Dale Brown (CAN)	6	–	–
Arthur Williams (USA)	7	3	1
Darren Corbett (IRE)	8	4	5
Vassiliy Jirov (KAZ)	9	12	10
Ken Murphy (USA)	10	7	4
Ezequiel Paixao (BRA)	–	1	–
Robert Daniels (USA)	13	5	–
Tiwon Taylor (USA)	27	6	8
Stefan Anghern (SWI)	–	8	–
Valery Vikhor (LAT)	–	10	–
Vacant	–	–	2
Stefan Anghem (SWI)	–	–	7
Uriah Grant (USA)	–	–	9

LT. HEAVYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Roy Jones (USA)	C	C	–
Reggie Johnson (USA)	–	–	C
Graciano Rocchigiani (GER)	C	–	–
Richard Frazier (USA)	1	3	6
Montell Griffin (USA)	2	10	9
Derrick Harmon (USA)	3	12	12
Michael Nunn (USA)	4	–	–
Muhammad Siluvangi (ZAI)	5	2	7
Mark Prince (GB)	6	–	–
Henry Wharton (GB)	7	–	–
Jorge Castro (ARG)	8	–	–
Fabian Chancelay (ARG)	9	8	–
Hisashi Teraji (JAP)	10	–	–
Dario Matteoni (ARG)	24	1	–
Lou Del Valle (USA)	11	4	–
Richard Hall (USA)	21	5	4
Virgil Hill (USA)	–	6	–
Anthony Bigeni (AUS)	–	7	–
Ole Klemetsen (NOR)	12	9	11
Vacant	–	–	1
Vacant	–	–	2
Will Taylor (USA)	18	–	3
Mark Prince (GB)	–	–	5
David Telesco (USA)	23	11	8
Yosukezan Nishijima (JAP)	–	–	10

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Richie Woodhall (GB)	C	–	–
Frank Liles (USA)	–	C	–
Charles Brewer (USA)	–	–	C
Vincenzo Nardiello (ITA)	1	–	–
Robin Reid (GB)	2	–	12
Dean Francis (GB)	3	–	11
Thomas Tate (USA)	4	3	4
Eric Lucas (CAN)	5	4	–
Omar Sheika (USA)	6	–	–
Chris Johnson (CAN)	7	11	–
Zafarou Ballogou (TOGO)	8	8	6
Mads Larsen (DEN)	9	–	–
Glenn Catley (GB)	10	–	–
Bruno Girard (FRA)	11	1	–
Dean Francis (GB)	–	2	–
Andrei Shkalikov (RUS)	–	5	–
Herol Graham (GB)	–	6	–
Jorge Castro (ARG)	–	7	–
Byron Mitchell (USA)	17	9	8
David Starie (GB)	15	10	–
Antoine Byrd (USA)	–	–	1
Vacant	–	–	2
Mauricio Amaral (BRA)	–	–	3
Demetrius Davis (USA)	14	–	5
Reginaldo Andrade (BRA)	13	–	7
Rick Thornberry (AUST)	28	–	9
Robert Coehlo (BRA)	29	–	10

MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Hassine Cherifi (FRA)	C	–	–
William Joppy (USA)	11	C	–
Bernard Hopkins (USA)	–	–	C
Stephane Ouelette (CAN)	1	9	–
Robert McCracken (GB)	2	6	3
Keith Holmes (USA)	3	–	7
Julio Cesar Vazquez (ARG)	4	–	–
Kevin Palmer (USA)	5	–	–
Antwun Echols (USA)	6	–	–
Robert Allen (USA)	7	2	1
Agostino Cardamone (ITA)	8	10	–
Paul Vaden (USA)	9	–	–
Giovanni Pretorius (SA)	10	8	4
Darren Obah (AUSTRL)	–	1	–
Antwun Echols (USA)	–	3	–
Peter Venancio (BRA)	18	4	9
Julio Cesar Green (DR)	–	5	6
Roberto Duran (PAN)	–	7	–
Antwun Echols (USA)	–	–	2
Anthony Andrews (GUY)	28	12	5
Urbano Gurrola (MEX)	–	–	8
Abdula Ramadan (CAN)	–	11	10

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Keith Mullings (USA)	C	–	–
Laurent Boudouani (FRA)	–	C	–
Yori Boy Campas (MEX)	–	–	C
Javier Castillejo (SPA)	1	9	10
Tony Marshall (USA)	2	3	–
David Reid (USA)	3	6	9
Davide Ciarlante (ITA)	4	–	–
Terry Norris (USA)	5	–	–
Kookyui Song (KOR)	6	–	–
James Coker (USA)	7	–	–
Fernando Vargas (USA)	8	–	1
Said Bennajem (FRA)	9	–	–
Jose Alfredo Flores (MEX)	10	–	–
Guillermo Jones (PAN)	–	1	–
Kevin Kelly (USA)	12	2	–
Tony Menefee (USA)	–	4	–
Mamâdou Thiam (FRA)	11	5	–
Fernando Vargas (USA)	–	7	–
Emmett Linton (USA)	22	8	8
Pedro Ortega (MEX)	–	10	–
Vacant	–	–	2
Jason Papillion (USA)	26	–	3
Earnie Artango (AUSTRL)	25	–	4
Andrew Murray (GUY)	–	11	5
Raul Marquez (USA)	–	–	6
Aaron Davis (USA)	–	–	7

WELTERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Oscar De La Hoya (USA)	C	–	–
Ike Quartey (GHA)	–	C	–
Felix Trinidad (PR)	–	–	C
Derrell Coley (USA)	1	5	5
Julio Cesar Chavez (MEX)	2	–	–
James Page (USA)	3	3	12
Jose Luis Lopez (MEX)	4	2	–
Wilfredo Rivera (PR)	5	8	–
Nicolas Cervera (COL)	6	–	–
Shannan Taylor (AUSTRL)	7	7	11
Maxim Nesterenko (RUS)	8	11	–
Suk Hyun Yun (KOR)	9	–	–
Sergio Acuna (ARG)	10	–	–
Andrei Pestraiev (RUS)	13	1	–
Oba Carr (USA)	12	4	–
Jeff Malcolm (AUSTRL)	–	6	–
Jose A. Riveras (USA)	–	9	–
Frank Olsen (DEN)	14	10	–
Vincent Pettway (USA)	–	–	1
Hugo Pineda (COL)	–	–	2
Raul Frank (USA)	–	–	3
Vernon Forrest (USA)	11	–	4
Mahenge Zulu (ZAI)	–	–	6
Juan Negron (PR)	–	–	7

Antonio Marqurito (MEX)	27	–	8
Walter Saporiti (ARG)	–	–	9
Adrian Stone (GB)	–	–	10

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Vacant	**C**	**–**	**–**
Khalid Rahilou (FRA)	**–**	**C**	**–**
Vince Phillips (USA)	**–**	**–**	**C**
Miguel Angel Gonzalez (MEX)	1	4	–
Kostya Tszyu (AUSTRL)	2	2	6
Reggie Green (USA)	3	10	8
Diobelis Hurtado (CUB)	4	–	–
Rafael Ruelas (MEX)	5	–	–
Sharmba Mitchell (USA)	6	1	2
Justin Rowsell (AUSTRL)	7	–	–
Soren Sondergaard (DEN)	8	–	–
Lawrence Ngobeni (SA)	9	–	–
Ismael Chaves (ARG)	10	–	–
Julio Cesar Chavez (MEX)	–	3	–
Virgil McClendon (USA)	–	5	3
Freddy Rojas (CHILE)	19	6	5
Juan Coggi (ARG)	13	7	–
Elio Ortiz (VEN)	–	8	–
Zab Judah (USA)	20	9	4
Terron Millett (USA)	–	–	1
Jonathan Thaxton (USA)	17	–	7
Rafael Ruelas (USA)	–	–	9
Alex Carillo (COL)	–	–	10

LIGHTWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Cesar Bazan (MEX)	**C**	**–**	**–**
Jean-Baptiste Mendy (FRA)	**–**	**C**	**–**
Shane Mosley (USA)	**–**	**–**	**C**
Steve Johnston (USA)	1	–	10
Daomai Sithkodam (THAI)	2	–	–
Israel Cardona (USA)	3	5	2
Jong Kwon Baek (KOR)	4	–	–
Rick Yoshimura (JAP)	5	7	–
Hiroyuki Sakamoto (JAP)	6	–	–
Billy Schwer (GB)	7	4	9
Manuel Fernandes (FRA)	8	–	–
Lovemore Ndou (SA)	9	–	–
James Leija (USA)	10	10	–
Alberto Sicurella (ARG)	–	1	–
Eduardo Morales (ARG)	–	2	1
Orzubek Nazarov (JAP)	–	3	–
Phillip Holiday (SA)	–	6	4
Manuel Fernandez (POR)	–	8	–
Angel Manfredy (USA)	14	9	–
Justin Rowsell (AUSTRL)	–	–	3
Leavander Johnson (USA)	–	–	5
Arturo Gatti (USA)	–	–	6
Ivan Robinson (USA)	17	–	7
Dario Esais (COL)	29	–	8

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Genaro Hernandez (USA)	**C**	**–**	**–**
Yong Soo Choi (KOR)	**–**	**C**	**–**
Robert Garcia (USA)	**–**	**–**	**C**
Jesus Chavez (USA)	1	–	–
Goyo Vargas (MEX)	2	–	–
Santos Rebolledo (VEN)	3	3	9
Justin Juuko (UGA)	4	4	8
Floyd Mayweather (USA)	5	9	–
Sirimongkol Singmanassuk (THAI)	6	–	–
Gabriel Ruelas (MEX)	7	–	–
Kengo Nagashima (JAP)	8	–	–
Carlos Hernandez (EL SALV)	9	12	–
Tom Johnson (USA)	10	8	–
Lakva Sim (MON)	–	1	–
Takanori Hatakeyama (JAP)	22	2	–
Gilbert Serrano (VEN)	–	5	–
Edson Xuxa Nacimento (BRA)	–	6	–
Antonio Hernandez (MEX)	–	7	–
Carlos Gerena (PR)	15	10	–
Vacant	–	–	1
Vacant	–	–	2
Ramon Ledon (CUBA)	–	–	3
Joel Casamayor (CUB)	11	–	4
Amulfo Castillo (USA)	–	–	5
Harold Warren (USA)	–	–	6
Tracy Patterson (USA)	21	–	7
Juan Trinidad (PR)	–	–	10

FEATHERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Luisito Espinosa (PHIL)	**C**	**–**	**–**
Fred Norwood (USA)	**–**	**C**	**–**
Manuel Medina (MEX)	**–**	**–**	**C**
Cesar Soto (MEX)	1	1	8
Juan Manuel Marquez (MEX)	2	–	–
Paul Ingle (GB)	3	–	7
Derrick Gainer (USA)	4	–	–
Carlos Rios (ARG)	5	–	–
Pablo Chacon (ARG)	6	11	–
Dramane Nabaloun (BKF)	7	–	–
Takeo Imaoka (JAP)	8	–	–
Injin Chi (KOR)	9	–	–
Billy Hardy (GB)	10	8	–
Victor Polo (COL)	–	2	1
Antonio Cermeno (VEN)	–	3	–
Frederic Perez (FRA)	–	4	–
Wilfredo Vazquez (PR)	–	5	–
Genaro Rios (NIC)	–	6	–
Chamopekt Chorchamuang (THAI)	–	7	–
Angel Vasquez (PR)	–	9	2
Mbulelo Botile (SA)	–	10	3
Luis Mendoza (COL)	–	–	4
Jesus Chavez (USA)	–	–	5
Hector Lizarraga (USA)	–	–	6
Tony Wehbee (AUS)	22	–	9
Teofilo Carranza (PER)	–	–	10

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Erik Morales (MEX)	**C**	**–**	**–**
Enrique Sanchez (MEX)	**–**	**C**	**–**
Vuyani Bungu (SA)	**–**	**–**	**C**
Wayne McCullough (IRE)	1	–	–
Reynante Jamili (PHIL)	2	–	–
Guty Espadas (MEX)	3	6	–
Michael Brodie (GB)	4	10	4
Junior Jones (USA)	5	–	–
Kozo Ishii (JAP)	6	–	–
Hector Acero-Sanchez (DR)	7	2	–
Jesus Salud (USA)	8	–	–
Ariston Clayton (USA)	9	12	8
Juan Carlos Ramirez (MEX)	10	–	–
Carlos Barreto (VEN)	–	1	–
John Johnson (USA)	–	3	3
Sergei Devakov (UKR)	11	4	7
Rafael Del Valle (PR)	–	5	–
Serge Poilblan (FRA)	22	7	–
Lehlo Ledwaba (SA)	13	8	10
Choe Chol Su (KOR)	–	9	–
Victor Llerena (COL)	–	–	1
Vacant	–	–	2
Salim Medjkoune (FRA)	–	–	5
Anell Barotillo (AUSTRL)	15	–	6
Jose Mendoza (COL)	–	–	9

BANTAMWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Joichiro Tatsuyoshi (JAP)	**C**	**–**	**–**
Nana Konadu (GHA)	**–**	**C**	**–**
Tim Austin (USA)	**–**	**–**	**C**
Adan Vargas (MEX)	1	6	7
Paul Ayala (USA)	2	2	12
Dario Azuaga (PAR)	3	–	–
Danny Romero (USA)	4	–	–
Gerardo Martinez (MEX)	5	5	–
Veerapol Sahaprom (THAI)	6	–	–
Cuauhtemoc Gomez (MEX)	7	10	–
John Michael Johnson (USA)	8	–	–
Oscar Garro (ARG)	9	12	–
Hugo Dianzo (MEX)	10	–	–
Lukhin CP Gym (THAI)	–	1	–
Johnny Bredahl (DEN)	13	3	–
Sahoiu Phaisarn Gym (THA)	–	4	–
Giovanni Andrade (BRA)	–	7	–
Johnny Armour (GB)	–	8	4
Kozo Ishii (KOR)	–	9	–
Vacant	–	–	1
Vacant	–	–	2
Jesus Perez (COL)	27	–	3
Adrian Kaspari (INDO)	–	–	5
Albert Resilay (INDO)	–	–	6
Jorge Otero (COL)	–	–	8
Bernardo Mendoza (CHI)	–	–	9
Cesar Singo (ECU)	–	–	10

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Gerry Penalosa (PHIL)	**C**	**–**	**–**
Satoshi Iida (JAP)	**–**	**C**	**–**
Johnny Tapia (USA)	**–**	**–**	**C**
Joel Luna Zarate (MEX)	1	4	–
Luis Bolanos (COL)	2	–	–
Raffy Montalban (PHIL)	3	–	–
In Joo Cho (KOR)	4	11	–
Keiji Yamaguchi (JAP)	5	–	–
Ratanachai Sor Voraphin (THAI)	6	12	2
Yokthai Sithoar (THAI)	7	1	–
Jose Rafael Sosa (ARG)	8	–	–
Pone Saengmorokot (THAI)	9	–	–
Akihigo Nago (JAP)	10	10	–
Veeraphol Sahaprom (THAI)	–	2	–
Saen Sow Ploenchit (THAI)	–	3	–
Julio Gamboa (NIC)	–	5	3
Dario Azuaga (PAR)	–	6	–
Takato Toguchi (JAP)	21	7	–
Evangelo Perez (PAN)	–	8	12
Felix Machado (VEN)	–	9	–
Danny Romero (USA)	–	–	1
Ernesto Briceno (VEN)	–	–	4
Ubadel Soto (COL)	–	–	5
Eric Morel (USA)	11	–	6
David Vinger (SA)	26	–	7
Joel Luna Zarate (MEX)	–	–	8
Sombak Singchawan (THAI)	–	–	9
Pedro Rincon (COL)	28	–	10

FLYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Chatchai Sasakul (THAI)	**C**	**–**	**–**
Hugo Soto (ARG)	**–**	**C**	**–**
Mark Johnson (USA)	**–**	**–**	**C**
Gabriel Mira (MEX)	1	–	–
Raul Juarez (MEX)	2	8	–
David Guerault (FRA)	3	6	1
Alejandro Montiel (MEX)	4	9	–
Manny Pacquiao (PHIL)	5	3	–
Chokchai Chokviwat (THAI)	6	–	–
Alex Ali Baba (GHA)	7	–	–
Will Grigsby (USA)	8	5	–
Yong Soon Chang (KOR)	9	–	–
Alexander Mahmutov (RUS)	10	–	–
Gilberto Gonzalez (VEN)	–	1	–
Jose Bonilla (VEN)	–	2	–
Denkaosaen Kaowitch (THAI)	–	4	–
Jesper Jensen (DEN)	–	7	–
Miguel A. Granados (MEX)	–	10	–
Vacant	–	–	2
Ferid Ben Jeddou (TUN)	–	11	3
Irene Pacheco (COL)	–	–	4
Yodchingchai Sornthong (THAI)	–	–	5
Yuri Arbachakov (RUS)	–	–	6
Ilido Julio (COL)	17	–	7
Jose Landin (USA)	–	–	8
Pedro Alcazar (PAN)	–	–	9
Luis Rolon (PR)	–	–	10

JR. FLYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Saman Sorjaturong (THAI)	**C**	**–**	**–**
Pichitnoi C. Siriwat (THAI)	**–**	**C**	**–**
Mauricio Pastrana (COL)	**–**	**–**	**C**
Yosam Choi (KOR)	1	10	–
Joma Gamboa (PHIL)	2	1	1
Phanieng Sasiprabha (THAI)	3	–	–
Oscar Andrade (MEX)	4	5	–
Gabriel Munoz (MEX)	5	–	–
Edgar Cardenas (MEX)	6	–	–
Hidenobu Honda (JAP)	7	6	–
Ladislao Vazquez (MEX)	8	–	–
Sangik Yang (KOR)	9	–	–
Sandre Oviedo (ARG)	10	–	–
Carlos Murillo (PAN)	–	2	5
Medngon 3K Battery (THAI)	22	3	–
Oswaldo Guerrero (MEX)	–	4	–
Hadao C.P. Gym (THAI)	–	7	–
Keiji Yamaguchi (JAP)	–	8	–
Pongsaklek Nakornton (THAI)	–	9	–
Vacant	–	–	2
Will Grigsby (USA)	–	–	3
Gill Ikeda (JAP)	–	–	4
Anis Roga (INDO)	–	–	6
Jose Sanjuanelo (COL)	–	–	7
Manuel Jesus Herrera (DR)	13	–	8
Hernan Berrio (COL)	–	–	9
Hawk Makepula (SA)	–	–	10

STRAWWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Ricardo Lopez (MEX)	**C**	**–**	**–**
Rosendo Alvarez (NIC)	**–**	**C**	**–**
Zolani Petelo (SA)	**25**	**–**	**C**
Payak Nakornluang (THAI)	1	7	–
Andy Tabanas (PHIL)	2	10	2
Jose Antonio Aguirre (MEX)	3	12	–
Myung Sup Park (KOR)	4	9	–
Daniel Reyes (COL)	5	11	4
Yasuo Tokimitsu (JAP)	6	–	–
Satoru Abe (JAP)	7	5	–
Alex Sanchez (PR)	8	–	–
Jun Arlos (PHIL)	9	–	–
Lakchai Dechakul (THAI)	10	–	–
Rocky Lin (JAP)	–	1	–
Jose Garcia (COL)	–	2	–
Songkram Porpaoin (THAI)	–	3	–
Ronnie Magramo (PHIL)	–	4	–
Randy Mangubat (PHIL)	29	6	–
Chana Porpaoin (THAI)	–	8	–
Luis Lazarte (ARG)	–	–	1
Ratanapol Sow Voraphin (THAI)	14	–	3
Eric Jamili (PHIL)	–	–	5
Jose Laureano (PR)	–	–	6
Faisol Akbar (INDO)	–	–	7
Carmelo Caceres (PHIL)	–	–	8
Rocky Palma (JAP)	–	–	9
Denkaosan Kaowichit (THAI)	–	–	10

CLASSIC

JERSEY JOE WALCOTT

Boxing's "Forgotten Man" Remembered

By Jack Sher

(Editor's Note: This is a condensed version)

On the glass in the dirty, wooden door at 221 Market Street, the large black letters read "CAMDEN ATHLETIC CORPORATION." Underneath, in smaller letters, it said "Felix Bocchicchio, Promoter." The place was squeezed between a small barber shop and a dusty, ancient cigar store. Across the street was a soup factory, flanked on either side by warped, gray frame buildings. On the corner was Homo's Cafe, owned by Joe Webster, fight manager.

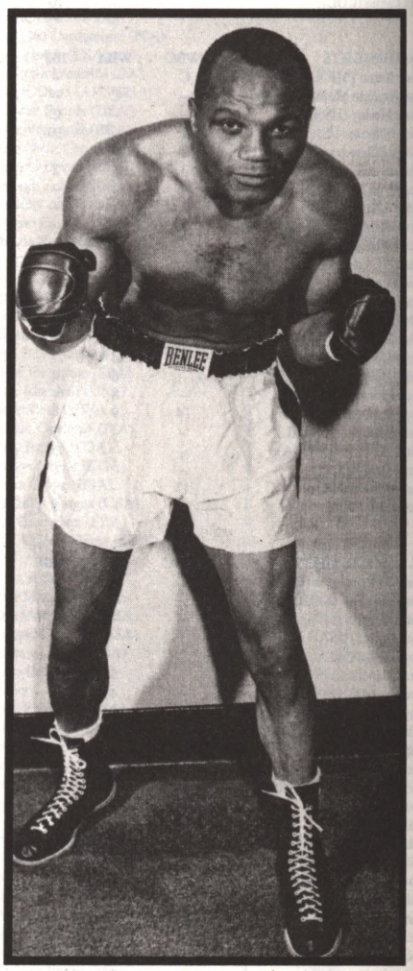
It was a wretched, indolent, sweltering street in summer, a harsh, malignant street in the cold, slushy days of the New Jersey winter. On this day, in one of the corporate offices of the Camden Athletic Corporation, a man was talking. He knew the street well. He worked on it, starved on it, been cheated on it. On this street he had been praised and damned, been called a bum and a hero. He was a prize fighter. He was talking. Listen ...

"You ask me do I want any of my kids to become fighters? No, I wouldn't want them to be fighters. They done enough suffering on account of me trying to make a living that way."

He answered more questions. He went on talking.

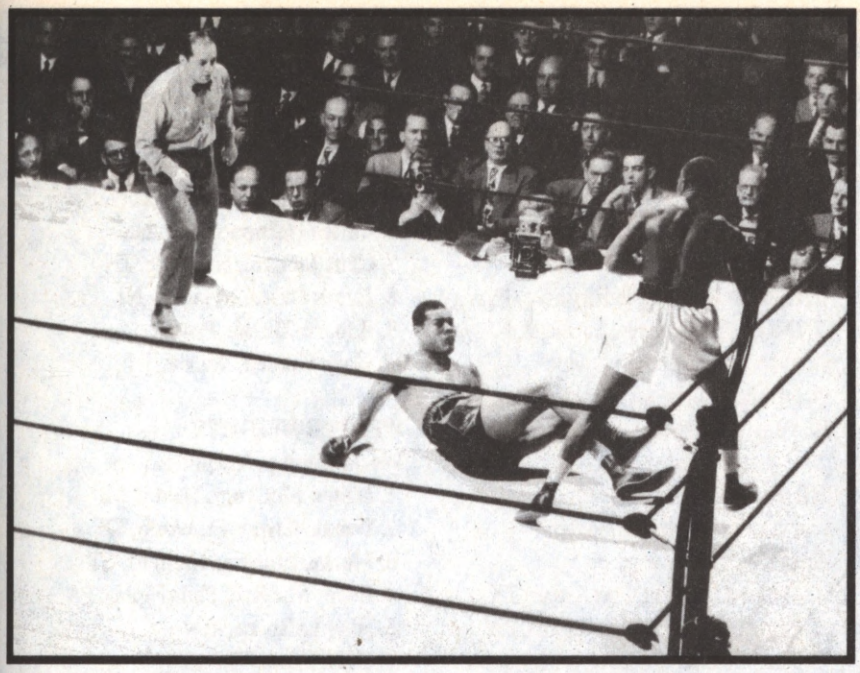
"You can say that in my early years of fighting, my family and I never had enough to eat. You can say there was never enough food for the kids. That's the truth."

The fighter looked down at his hands. They were large, square, a scar on one of them. His face was strong, bony. A rash ran down the side of one cheek. His hair was thin on top, scraggly. His eyes were light brown, vague, tolerant, devoid of hatred. He shoulders were large and broad,



Jersey Joe Walcott survived a hardscrabble life on the streets of Camden to become heavyweight champion. Early in his career, he worked odd jobs to support his family, while making a meager living from boxing.

From THE RING, June 1983



Heavyweight great Joe Louis said Walcott delivered one of the hardest punches he's ever received. Walcott knocked Louis down twice in their first meeting in 1947.

covered by a tan polo shirt. The black forearms muscular, his stomach flat.

"Worse time for me? In 1934, that was the worse time. Was on relief that year, couldn't get nothin'. Sure, I've done everything, work as a stevedore, work on an ice truck, on a garbage truck, in the shipyards, on a road gang, odd jobs, work in the soup factory across the street. Fought then, too. Never had time for any real training. Sometimes train two or three days, sometimes only at night. Go in there worrying about money, bad food in my stomach. No, I wouldn't go into the fight game again if I had to start back and go through that like I did."

The man you have just been listening to is Jersey Joe Walcott.

Walcott had been fighting, off and on, for maybe as long as 18 years. It's my guess he began around 1928. During that time, he has been cheated, flim-flammed, been given the run-around, ducked, mistreated, and mishandled. And yet, he was still unknown. Some of the best heavyweights, he'd knocked them out, or beaten them. Fight managers knew who he was because they were giving him the brush-off for years. They kept their boys out of the ring with him. Sportswriters knew who he was because they'd written about him from time to time, pityingly, jokingly, sometimes seriously, almost always half-heartedly. Few, if any, of them ever used their power to insist that he been given a fair shake.

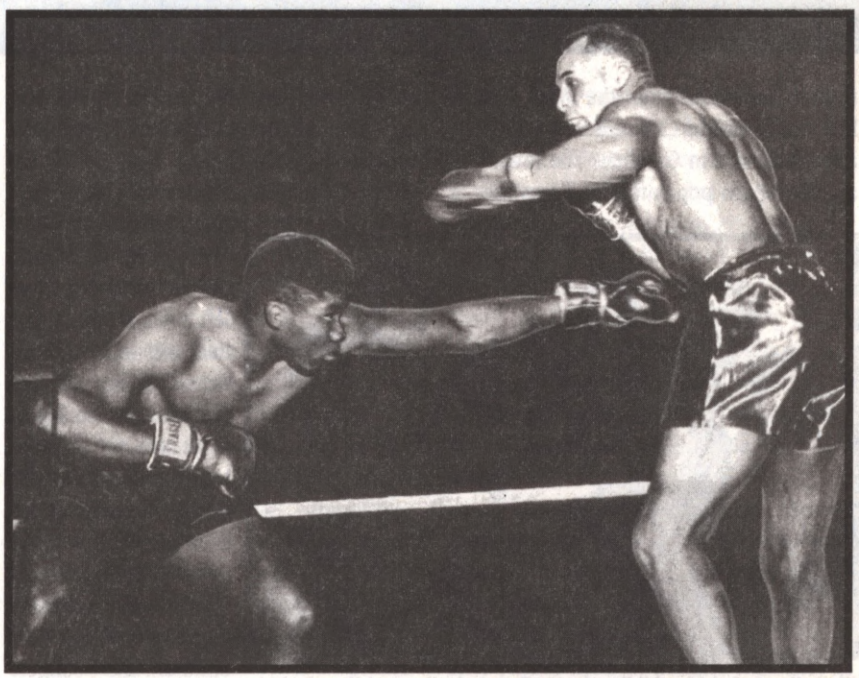
He once belted Joe Louis to the canvas. Louis said about him: "Walcott hit me with as hard a punch as I've ever been hit." Abe Simon, only the second man ever to kayo Walcott, said, "Walcott hit me harder than Louis did." This Walcott, after a three-year layoff, came back to score 16 knockouts.

Why weren't we told about this fighter? Nobody ever found anything serious to criticize in Walcott. He's a likable, fairly intelligent, friendly man with a family of six children. Had he been fighting setups? Was he a second-rate pug? Again, no. Not the guy who had beaten Jimmy Bivins, the classy Cleveland clouter; Joe Baksi, once rated the number-two heavyweight; and Joey Maxim, to list some of the highly touted fighters whose careers Walcott dented.

It is not any one person's fault that Walcott was not one of the best-known heavyweights in history. The fault lies entirely with the fight game itself, with the sloppy, vicious, cowardly, shady way that it has been run, with the stench of a system that tolerates crooked managers and gross unfairness.

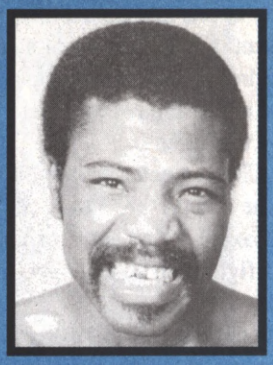
Any man who climbed into the ring to face the fists of Louis deserved to be known. But even if he hadn't gotten this shot at the champion, which he had long deserved, the story of Walcott should have been told.

One of the patterns of Walcott's life started at his birth, one that was to cling to him relentlessly: the pattern of hunger. He was born Arnold Raymond Cream, one of the 10 children born to a consistently destitute road worker. The boy's



Walcott was supposed to be fodder for the rising Jimmy Bivins, an upstart with an impressive record. Bivins lost a 10-round decision, becoming one of Walcott's many victims along with Joe Baksi, Steve Dudas, Tommy Gomez, and Joey Maxim.

THE RING RATINGS, June 1983



Aaron Pryor

HEAVYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Larry Holmes, Easton, PA
1. **Michael Dokes**, Akron, OH
2. **Mike Weaver**, Los Angeles, CA
3. **Renaldo Snipes**, Yonkers, NY
4. **Gerrie Coetzee**, South Africa
5. **Pinklon Thomas**, Philadelphia, PA
6. **Trevor Berbick**, Halifax, Nova Scotia
7. **Greg Page**, Louisville, KY
8. **Gerry Cooney**, Huntington, NY
9. **Randall (Tex) Cobb**, Abilene, TX
10. **Tim Witherspoon**, Philadelphia, PA

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Michael Spinks, St. Louis, MO
1. **Dwight Braxton**, Camden, NJ
2. **Eddie Mustafa Muhammad**, Brooklyn, NY
3. **Eddie Davis**, Seattle, WA
4. **Carlos DeLeon**, Puerto Rico
5. **John Davis**, Hempstead, NY
6. **Marvin Johnson**, Indianapolis, IN
7. **Oscar Rivadeneyra**, Vineland, NJ
8. **John Odhiambo**, Denmark
9. **Jose M. Flores**, Uruguay
10. **Peter McIntyre**, Los Angeles, CA

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
World Champ: Marvin Hagler, Brockton, MA
1. **Wilford Scypion**, Port Arthur, TX
2. **Frank Fletcher**, Philadelphia, PA
3. **Tony Sibson**, England
4. **Mustafa Hamsho**, Syria
5. **Thomas Hearns**, Detroit, MI
6. **Dwight Davidson**, Detroit, MI
7. **James Shuler**, Philadelphia, PA
8. **Fulgencio Obelmejias**, Venezuela
9. **James Green**, Irvington, NJ
10. **Curtis Parker**, Philadelphia, PA

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS
World Champ: Vacant
1. **Thomas Hearns**, Detroit, MI
2. **Wilfred Benitez**, Puerto Rico
3. **Davey Moore**, New York, NY
4. **Tony Ayala Jr.**, San Antonio, TX
5. **Mike McCallum**, New York, NY
6. **Carlos Herrera**, Argentina
7. **Clint Jackson**, Nashville, TN
8. **James Green**, Irvington, NJ
9. **Roberto Duran**, Panama
10. **Gary Guiden**, Muncie, IN

WELTERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Vacant
1. **Milton McCrory**, Detroit, MI
2. **Donald Curry**, Ft. Worth, TX
3. **Marlon Starling**, Hartford, CT
4. **Roger Stafford**, Philadelphia, PA
5. **Nino LaRocca**, Italy
6. **Colin Jones**, Wales
7. **Kevin Howard**, Philadelphia, PA
8. **Mauricio Bravo**, Venezuela
9. **Elio Diaz**, Venezuela
10. **Pete Ranzany**, Sacramento, CA

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHT
World Champ: Aaron Pryor, Cincinnati, OH
1. **Leroy Haley**, Las Vegas, NV
2. **Alexis Arguello**, Nicaragua
3. **Johnny Bumphus**, Clementon, NJ
4. **Saoul Mamby**, New York, NY

father, who came from the West Indies, had settled in Merchantville, New Jersey, a few miles from Camden. The town had a large Negro population and was then a hangout for such celebrated fighters as Jack Johnson, Joe Gans, Jack Blackburn, and Sam Langford.

By the time Cream was moving around the streets and back alleys of Merchantville, most of the fighters had left town. But his father had still talked about them. The boy was big for his age. He could fight. He did most of his fighting in the streets. When his father died, Arnold was 14 years old. The father left his wife, Edna, the legacy of a shack of 10 children, the youngest only two months old.

Walcott married his childhood sweetheart, Lydia, and they had six children together. Sometimes, when Walcott went off to a fight, he wouldn't tell Lydia, who wanted him out of the game.

"We didn't have much to eat while he was alive, and after he died it was worse," Walcott said.

At 17, Cream went over to Philadelphia to become a fighter. He impressed the ringwise Jack Blackburn, who was then training fighters in a beat-up gym on 13th and Cherry Streets. The youngster was then a welterweight. He took the fighting name of Joe Walcott, a favorite of his father's and one of the great Negro fighters in the era that had just passed.

Blackburn always knew what to do with a promising boy when he got his mitts on one. He brought the kid along fast, taught him plenty. In less than two months, he sent Walcott into the ring against the experienced "KO" Palmer, and Walcott hammered out a decision. In his next fight, Walcott knocked out Cowboy Wallace and went on to belt over seven or eight classy welters. Walcott says this is so, even though the record books

5. Steve Hearon, Houston, TX
6. Ubaldo Sacco, Argentina
7. Billy Costello, Kingston, NY
8. Bruce Curry, Ft. Worth, TX
9. Ronnie Shields, Port Arthur, TX
10. Patrizio Oliva, Italy

LIGHTWEIGHTS
World Champ: Vacant
1. Ray Mancini, Youngstown, OH
2. Edwin Rosario, Puerto Rico
3. Howard Davis Jr., Glen Cove, NY
4. Andy Ganigan, Honolulu, HI
5. Greg Coverson, Kalamazoo, MI
6. Roberto Elizondo, Corpus Christi, TX
7. Livingstone Bramble, Passaic, NJ
8. Jose Luis Ramirez, Mexico
9. Ken Bogner, Trenton, NJ
10. Orlando Romero, Peru

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS
World Champ: Roger Mayweather, Las Vegas, NV
1. Cornelius Boza-Edwards, England
2. Hector Camacho, New York, NY
3. Samuel Serrano, Puerto Rico
4. Bobby Chacon, Pacoima, CA
5. Rafael (Bazooka) Limon, Mexico
6. Johnny De La Rosa, Miami, FL
7. Rolando Navarrete, Panama
8. Jorge Alvarado, Panama
9. Chung Il-Choi, Korea
10. Rafael Solis, Puerto Rico

FEATHERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Eusebio Pedrosa, Panama
1. Juan LaPorte, New York, NY
2. Wilfredo Gomez, Puerto Rico
3. Rocky Lockridge, Paterson, NJ
4. Jose Caba, Dominican Republic
5. Azumah Nelson, Ghana
6. Ruben Castillo, Bakersfield, CA
7. Marlo Miranda, Colombia
8. Marcos Villasana, Mexico
9. Jackie Beard, Detroit, MI
10. Bernard Taylor, Knoxville, TN

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Wilfredo Gomez, Puerto Rico
1. Leo Cruz, Japan
2. Jaime Garza, Los Angeles, CA
3. Sergio Palma, Argentina
4. Mike Ayala, New York, NY
5. Lupe Pintor, Mexico
6. Felipe Orozco, Colombia
7. Soon-Hyun Chung, Korea
8. Bobby Berna, Philippines
9. Juan (Kid) Meza, Los Angeles, CA
10. Felix Rodriguez, Panama

BANTAMWEIGHTS
World Champ: Jeff Chandler, Philadelphia, PA
1. Lupe Pintor, Mexico
2. Albert Davila, Los Angeles, CA
3. Oscar Muniz, Los Angeles, CA
4. Jiro Watanabe, Japan
5. Rafael Orono, Venezuela
6. Edgar Roman, Venezuela
7. Gaby Canizales, Laredo, TX
8. Chul-Ho Kim, Korea
9. Harold Petty, Ft. Worth, TX
10. Freddie Jackson, Houston, TX

FLYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Charlie Magri, England
1. Santos Laciar, Argentina
2. Freddie Castillo, Mexico
3. Eleoncio Mercedes, Dominican Republic
4. Jung-Koo Chang, Korea
5. Katsuo Tokashiki, Japan
6. Hilario Zapata, Panama
7. Prudencio Cardona, Colombia
8. Gabriel Bernal, Mexico
9. German Torres, Mexico
10. Antonio Avelar, Mexico

don't list any fights for him before 1930.

Under Blackburn, the fighter began to eat regularly, grow, put on weight. Blackburn had plans for him. He told him, "We'll go places, boy. You gonna be champ."

Out in Chicago, two men named Roxborough and Black had discovered another fellow who they believed would be champion some day. That boy's name was Joe Louis Barrow. They offered Blackburn a juicy sum to train him. Blackburn took the offer and agreed to bring Walcott out to join the stable. The week Walcott was to leave with Blackburn, he came down with typhoid. The siege lasted two months. The doctor told him he could not fight for at least a year.

In the flush and flurry to bring Louis along, the men in Chicago forgot about Walcott. By the time he was back on his feet, nobody wanted him. Most reputable managers wouldn't take on a Negro fighter. It was too hard to get matches for them, unless they were lucky.

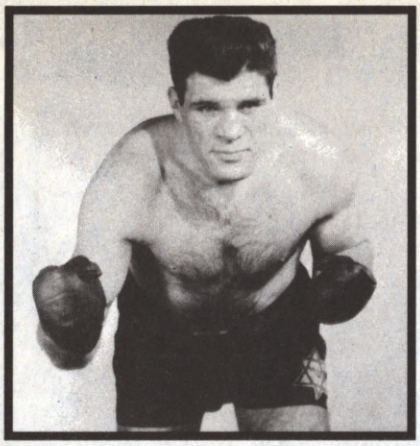
Walcott did not get lucky. There were managers who would take him then—and that's what they did—take him. Fly-by-night operators got him matches for 15, 20, and 25 bucks a shot. How much they pocketed themselves, Walcott never did find out. He was in no position to ask. They gave him no money on which to train, and seldom more than three or four days notice of where or whom he was to fight.

In those days, Walcott won almost every fight he took. He was young, tough, very fast, and clever. In the hands of a decent, honest manager, he could easily have been built into championship material. He could hit hard then. He had a dreamland punch in either hand. From time to time, he lost a few close decisions, but nobody had ever stopped him, and he won over half of his fights by knockout.

It is ironic that the accusation has been leveled against Walcott that he never took his training very seriously. A New Jersey sportswriter, who knows Walcott well, answered that criticism with a twisted grin. "Sure, he often went into the ring poorly conditioned. I've seen him fight in very bad shape. But it was just as much a case of lack of food as it was lack of training. It got worse as he began to get all those kids to support."

Walcott will tell you that he had "eating trouble" even before he got married. After many of his fights, he had just about enough money to eat for two days, allowing for car fare to look for a job. After one of his fights, after paying his own training expenses, he was left with less than four dollars.

Nobody, least of all Walcott, knows the



Abe Simon became the second fighter to ever knock out Walcott. With little training, Walcott dominated the heavier Simon, before his poor conditioning led to defeat in the later rounds.

number of managers he had. Some milked him for a night. Others hung onto him for a few months. "They always came to me with promises," he said, "but they never made good on them."

Most of Walcott's fights were in and around Camden and other South Jersey towns. Travel costs money, so he stuck close to home. When Louis set up training camp at Pompton Lakes, New Jersey, to get ready for the Max Schmeling fight, one of the sparring mates hired for him was the large Negro heavyweight from down-the-road-a-piece, the fellow they called Jersey Joe.

Walcott had not been fighting much that year—just two or three matches between the time he left a job on an ice wagon and took one on a road gang. He signed up to work out with Louis because it was near home, the money was welcome, and, in the back of his mind, was the now-fading hope someone would see him and give him a break.

There have been many versions of what happened during the brief time Walcott was in the Louis training camp. One thing is certain. He did dump Louis on the canvas. The question is, how many times did he do it? Bill McGraw of *The Philadelphia Record* quoted Walcott as saying, "In two days, I floored him three times with 16-ounce gloves. With light gloves, I'd tear his head off. He's too easy to hit."

Walcott still maintains the story is true. Louis would not comment on it. But, a few days after, Walcott was dismissed. "The reason they gave," Walcott smiled wryly, "was that I wasn't Louis' kind of fighter."

It did not seem a reasonable excuse to Walcott, but it was reasonable. He packed a wallop in his fists. He was a hungry fighter, sharp and dangerous. He was the boy Blackburn had dropped in order to build up Joe Louis. Any sensible manager would have let Walcott go. A man getting ready for a world championship fight can't afford to take a cuffing from his sparmates.

In the early days Walcott mixed odd jobs with occasional fights. In 1933, he married a Merchantville girl, whom he had known since childhood. The following year, his first son, Arnold, was born. That was the year Walcott and his family went on relief. Now and then, he would pick up a small purse fighting anyone on anything from nine hours' to nine days' notice. Often, Walcott didn't tell his wife, Lydia, about the fights he took. She did not want him to get back into the game. If it could not support him, it could not support a family. In 1940, he was paid $250 for a fight against Simon, who received at least 10 times as much. Walcott, badly out of condition, was knocked out in the sixth.

It took a war to keep Walcott out of the ring. Good jobs were open in the Camden shipyards, and Walcott got one as a chipper. It was the steadiest and best money Walcott ever made in his life. As a chipper, he averaged $85 to $90 per week. On June 7, 1944, just to pick up a few extra dollars, he went down to Batesville, New Jersey, and whipped Felix Del Paoli. He had no intention of returning to the ring. The next day, he went back to the shipyards.

Early in 1945, after 17 years in the ring, with fighters badly needed on the heavyweight scene, a big-time manager finally took an interest in Walcott, shipyard worker, ex-prizefighter. The manager was Jimmy Johnston. But John Hall, Commissioner of Boxing in New Jersey, refused to grant Walcott a license on the grounds that he was too old.

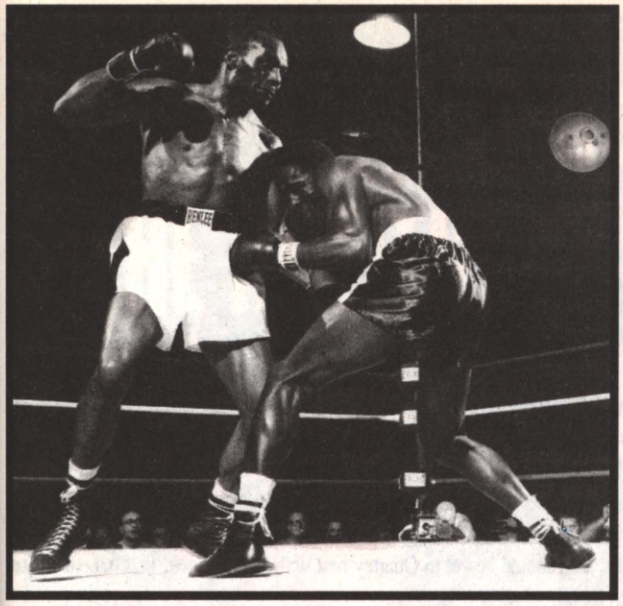
A small, thin-faced, dark-eyed man named Felix Bocchicchio, who had seen Walcott fight, didn't much care how old the big heavyweight happened to be. Bocchicchio had just turned promoter. He needed at least one good fighter whom citizens of Camden would pay dough to watch. Bocchicchio got Hall to reverse his decision on granting Walcott a license. He dug up Walcott's birth certificate, argued long and loud, and won out. Down the street from the club was Homo's Cafe and Joe Webster, an old friend of Walcott's. Webster didn't know a great deal about the fight game, but Bocchicchio knew that Walcott trusted Webster and talked the restaurant man into becoming Walcott's manager.

Bocchicchio and Webster did something as generous as it was wise. They decided to see that Walcott, for the first time in his life, was training thoroughly for a fight. They sent him to Ted Gleason's camp in Greenwood Lake. They got Lee Savold to train with him. Webster, the chubby, round-faced little restaurateur, saw that Walcott got plenty of food.

The turning point in Walcott's career was the night of August 2, 1945, in Camden, when he met Joe Baksi. The Kulpmont coal miner was then rated second among the heavyweights in the country. He agreed to fight a tuneup for a shot at Tami Mauriello. Walcott wrapped

Promoter Felix Bocchicchio showed patience and faith in Walcott. Bocchicchio, along with manager Joe Webster, provided Walcott with quality resources during training for the first time.

THE RING, June 1983



In his fifth try for a title, Walcott finally won the belt, knocking out Ezzard Charles in 1951 at age 37. The victory made Walcott the oldest man at the time to capture the heavyweight crown.

Baksi with hard lefts to the stomach, followed through with looping rights to the head, and was awarded a 10-round decision. Most sportswriters decided it was a "freak" upset. Walcott erased that label with victories over Johnny Denson and Steve Dudas.

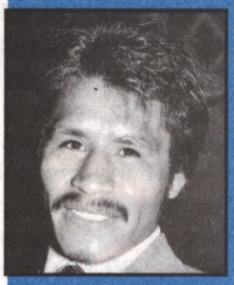
In Cleveland, a youngster named Jimmy Bivins was blasting his way into the hearts of fight fans. Bivins had 25 wins in his last 26 fights under his belt, and was rated the finest fighter to come down the pike since Joe Louis. Bivins, who was fresh out of opponents, finally agreed to meet Walcott. The fight took place on February 25, 1946. The next morning, the typewriter experts were shamefacedly admitting that they should have known about Walcott.

Walcott traveled to California in 1947 to meet Maxim for the third time. Another Jersey boy named Frank Sinatra, long a follower of Walcott's, decided it was about time Walcott made some money. He promoted the fight, guaranteeing Walcott $35,000, the most he had ever been offered in his entire 19 years of boxing. Walcott beat Maxim in 10 rounds. Louis saw the fight. He climbed into the ring, and the two had their pictures taken together. A short time later, Bocchicchio walked into the Camden Athletic Corporation and told Walcott that Louis agreed to fight him in a 15-round title fight at Madison Square Garden on December 5, 1947.

Walcott didn't win. Miracles seldom happened in the Garden. All that happened was that his name went down in THE RING Record Book as a heavyweight who once fought Joe Louis. It won't mention that both fighters came from the same poverty-stricken background, that one was given decent breaks the other should have also had, or that the fight game in the 20th Century gave a man named Walcott a very dirty deal.

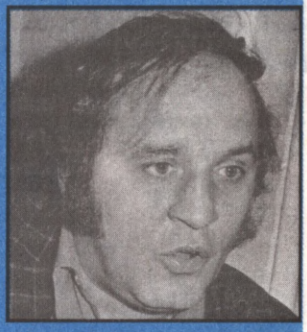
It was all to change. For the better. But that's another story. ■

The Cover: THE RING looks at Ray "Boom Boom" Mancini's uncanny ability to turn adversity into an advantage. The Youngstown, Ohio, slugger faced a five-month shutdown after breaking his collarbone during a sparring session, spoiling a possible million-dollar payday. But Dave Wolf, Mancini's manager, had the popular lightweight champ endorsing everything from toys to men's toiletries to keep the money rolling in.



Lupe In Limbo: Lupe Pintor retires after a near-fatal motorcycle accident that results in multiple fractures and six months of convalescence. The former WBC super bantam champ would go on to miraculously return to the ring in 1984, and he even recaptured the title in '85.

Remembering Paddy: THE RING remembers popular manager/trainer Paddy Flood, who died suddenly at the age of 48 on March 28, 1983, from a massive cerebral hemorrhage. Flood managed middleweight contender Mustafa Hamsho in the early-'80s and was well-liked by boxing people and fans alike.



Stevenson vs. Holmes?: The old debate rages as to who would win between a pro heavyweight champ and Cuba's perennial Olympic gold medalist Teofilo Stevenson. The challenge is passed to WBC champ Larry Holmes, after several failed attempts in the '70s to match Stevenson against Muhammad Ali.

Sifting Through The Rubble: THE RING gets the first interview with Tony Ayala Jr. behind bars, as the promising 20-year-old junior middleweight contender awaits sentencing for a rape conviction. "I never thought much of myself to begin with," Ayala told interviewer Michael Katz.

LOOKING AHEAD

By Eric Raskin

THE WELTER-WAIT IS OVER

The past year has been a tough one for boxing fans whose hopes were high that the supremely talented welterweight division would provide an endless parade of classic fights. Since the draw between **Ike Quartey** and **Jose Luis Lopez** last October, we've seen **Oscar De La Hoya** vs. **Patrick Charpentier**, **Felix Trinidad** vs. **Mahenge Zulu**, and Quartey vs. absolutely nobody. But on November 21, the lengthy drought in the 147-pound class will come to an end.

The contracts were signed on August 28 for De La Hoya to defend the WBC title against Quartey in Las Vegas, provided "The Golden Boy" got by **Julio Cesar Chavez** on September 18. Quartey represents De La Hoya's most physically imposing opponent yet, as the undefeated slugger from Ghana has one of the best jabs in the sport and is a tremendous finisher. Nonetheless, De La Hoya has been installed as the favorite in the pay-per-view clash, and, should he get to Quartey first with his left hook, he'll take a major step toward silencing his critics once and for all.

De La Hoya vs. Quartey: The welter wars begin

But De La Hoya-Quartey is not the only important welterweight action on the horizon. Assuming the September 23 hearing to try to free IBF champ Trinidad from his legal entanglements with **Don King** was a success (it was still a few days away at press time), the unbeaten Puerto Rican will meet **Pernell Whitaker** on December 5 on HBO. Whitaker proved against De La Hoya in '97 that he can still give anyone difficulty, and should Trinidad become the first man to knock "Sweet Pea" out, he'll make a meeting next year with De La Hoya even more of a sure-fire blockbuster.

The odd man out is Lopez, but he's due to face the winner of the fight for the vacant WBA title between **Andrei Pestriaev** and **James Page**. No matter how everything shakes down, the welters are finally beginning to live up to their billing as boxing's hottest division, and will hopefully continue to do so until there is a unified champ.

THE ENCORE

It's hard to imagine **Ivan Robinson** and **Arturo Gatti** topping the show they put on in their epic August battle, but they're darn sure gonna try. Though all the dollar figures were still being worked out as we went to press, the rematch is scheduled for November 14 on HBO as a co-feature with **Roy Jones'** 175-pound title defense against either interim WBC champ **Graciano Rocchigiani** or middleweight **Otis Grant**, who'll be making a sizable leap up to a catchweight to be determined if he's the opponent. Jones may be the biggest name on the card, but as Main Events matchmaker **Carl Moretti** said, "Gatti-Robinson II should be the main event. That's the fight everybody wants to see." The rematch, the first fight in Robinson's new three-fight contract with Main Events, will take place in either Atlantic City or Connecticut.

LISTEN UP

Unbeaten heavyweight **Lawrence Clay-Bey** re-fractured a finger on his left hand while sparring in late-August, just a month after he returned to training. He originally suffered the injury during an April bout. The '96 Olympian's hand was expected to be in a cast through mid-October, meaning we may not see him back in the ring before the end of the year ... IBF lightweight champ **Shane Mosley** will return to *Boxing After Dark* on December 12, but the opponent will not be **Vince Phillips** as many had hoped. Possible opponents for "Sugar Shane" include **Israel Cardona** or the winner of the October 24 **James Leija-Gabe Ruelas** fight, with a move up to 140 to face Phillips coming sometime in '99. **Angel Manfredy** will box in the co-feature on the HBO show.

FUTURE FIGHTS

By Art Manteris

VP/Director of Race and Sports Operations Las Vegas Hilton SuperBook

Favorite	Underdog	Odds	The Skinny
Oscar De La Hoya	Ike Quartey	2½-1	Oscar has too much
Ivan Robinson	Arturo Gatti	Pick-'em	Rematch too close to call
Johnny Tapia	Danny Romero	9-5	Tapia keeps finding ways to win
Mark Johnson	Mauricio Pastrana	9-5	Edge to the bigger fighter
Bernard Hopkins	Robert Allen	2-1	Hopkins will be ready next time

Las Vegas Hilton

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